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GUJARAT ELECTION

AAP's promises have piqued voters' interest

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BLOW TO FEDERALISM

A worrying judgment by the Kerala HC

The ICAR must implead itself in the KUFOS case

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SIZZLING SHOW

Suryakumar shines as India goes 1-0 up

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Mohammed Shariq: From pro-terror graffiti writer to blast accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MANGALURU/ SHIVAMOGGA

Mohammed Shariq

The Mangaluru blast accused Mohammed Shariq, 24, hailing from Tirthahalli in Shivamogga district, looking after a readymade garments shop of his father, first came on the radar of the State police when he was arrested for pro-terror graffiti in Mangaluru city in November 2020.

The two graffiti read: "Do not force us to invite Lashkar-e-Taiba and Taliban to deal with Sanghis and Manuvadis. #Lashkar Zindabad" and "Gustakh E Rasool Ki Ek Hi Saza Sar Tan Se Jude". He was arrested with his engineering graduate associate Maaz Muneer Ahmed and booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and was later released on bail. The case is pending.

By the time the agencies came across his activities again in August-September 2022, it was revealed that he was an associate of a key member of an Islamic State offshoot Al Hind and was the kingpin of a module he had put together in Shivamogga. But he had by then disappeared and turned out to be a challenge to the NIA and the police, before he turned up in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru with an IED. In the interim, he was in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and most recently in Mysuru, it has now come out.

Shariq left for Mangaluru to work after school. After his mother passed away at a young age, his father remarried. He was recently looking after his father's shop in Tirthahalli till August, after which his family also reportedly lost contact with him. His father passed away recently. Probing a stabbing incident in Shivamogga around Independence Day over putting up a photo of V.D. Savarkar, the Shivamogga Rural police had busted an alleged terror module with alleged links to IS.

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A WILD GOOSE CHASE
» PAGE 3

Mangaluru autorickshaw blast is 'act of terror': police

They say accused was carrying a pressure cooker rigged with explosives, which may have accidentally gone off; investigators believe he has links to the Coimbatore car explosion

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU/BENGALURU

Connecting the dots: Police officials inspecting the site of the autorickshaw blast on the Padil-Pumpwell main road in Mangaluru in Karnataka on Sunday. H.S. MANJUNATH

A low-intensity explosion in an autorickshaw on the outskirts of Mangaluru city in coastal Karnataka on Saturday evening has now turned out to be an improvised explosive device (IED) blast suspected to have been "an act of terror with intention to cause serious damage", Praveen Sood, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police, Karnataka, said on Sunday.

Initially, the explosion was believed to be due to a glitch in the vehicle.

Investigating agencies are examining the suspected link of the module behind the recent Coimbatore blast with the low-intensity explosion in Mangaluru. A senior probe agency official said *prima facie* evidence indicated a connection between both the explosions.

The Mangaluru autorickshaw passenger who was carrying the IED, which was rigged in a pressure cooker kept in a bag, was injured in the blast, and has now been identified as Mohammed Shariq, 24, of Thirthahalli in the Malnad region of Karnataka.

Shariq is a terror accused who has been on the run for many months now.

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SIM FROM COIMBATORE
» PAGE 8

NEARBY

HAL airport sees rise in charter flight operations

BENGALURU
Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) airport, which served as Bengaluru's primary airport for decades until 2008, has been seeing a steady increase in charter flight operations.
» Page 2

'Cong. betrayed oppressed communities'

BALLARI
BJP national president J.P. Nadda has said that the Congress has betrayed the aspirations of the oppressed sections. » Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 5

Voters' data 'theft': CM issues directions to start probe from 2013 when Cong. was in power

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> Instructions have been given to hold the investigation from 2013 when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister as it will reveal all the directions that had been given to the agency by that government.
>
> **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI**
> Chief Minister

Launching a counter-attack on the Congress over the case of alleged theft of voters' data by an NGO and deletion of names from the voters' list, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday instructed the authorities to conduct an investigation into the issue from 2013 when the Congress was in power.

"Instructions have been given to hold the investigation from 2013 when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister as it will reveal all the directions that had been given to the agency by that government. A probe will bring out the truth," he told reporters here. "People should know why the orders were issued to Chilume and the reasons behind it. Earlier, the government had planned to probe only the current incident but it has now been decided to probe whatever happened since 2013."

The Chief Minister pointed out that the incumbent government gave orders only to create awareness among the voters, and a condition was imposed that the agency must not have any association or links with any party. "However, Mr. Siddaramaiah had issued orders for the revision of electoral list which has to be done by the Election Commission. It is a grave crime that the work to be done by the Election Commission was given to a private agency. The Siddaramaiah government crossed all limits and misused the power by even authorising appointment of BLOs," he alleged.

Stating that the allegations of Congress leaders were baseless, Mr. Bommai said that this incident would backfire on the Congress. "Addition and deletion of names in the electoral list is the job of the Election Commission, and allegations against the current government is politically motivated. The commission has used artificial intelligence for the removal of duplication of names in the list to remove fake voters. Because of this the Congress is creating a hue and cry," he said.

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Co-founder of Chilume Trust arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police on Sunday arrested the prime accused in the voters' data theft case.

Co-founder of Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust Krishnappa Ravikumar had been absconding since the scandal broke out. The Central Division Police arrested him on Sunday evening.

The trust is accused of illegally collecting voters' data by impersonating the civic body.

A realtor too

According to the police, Ravikumar is a realtor from Dobbspet having links with many politicians through his phone and email. His interrogation is expected to reveal the true extent of fraud and the case, police said.

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COP-27 sets up loss and damage fund

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Delegates at the UN's climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt thrashed out an agreement on Sunday to establish a loss and damage (L&D) fund to compensate the most vulnerable countries from climate-linked disasters.

Crucial questions – such as who will manage this fund, whether contributions are expected from large developing countries and what the fair share of contributors will be – have been left to a "transitional committee" that will make recommendations for the adoption of the fund at the next Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN's Framework Convention for Climate Change, to be held in the UAE in 2023.

These suggestions will be unveiled at the next Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN's Framework Convention for Climate Change, to be held in the UAE in 2023.

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INDIA HAILS FUND
» PAGE 10

What is "loss and damage"?

The phrase refers to costs already being incurred from climate-fuelled weather extremes or impacts, like rising sea levels

- Climate funding so far has focused on cutting CO2 emissions, while a third of it went towards helping communities adapt to future impacts
- Loss and damage funding is expected to cover the cost of damage that countries cannot avoid or adapt to
- A report by 55 vulnerable countries estimated that their combined climate-linked losses in the last two decades totalled

$525 billion, or 20% of their collective GDP. This could go upto $580 billion per year by 2030

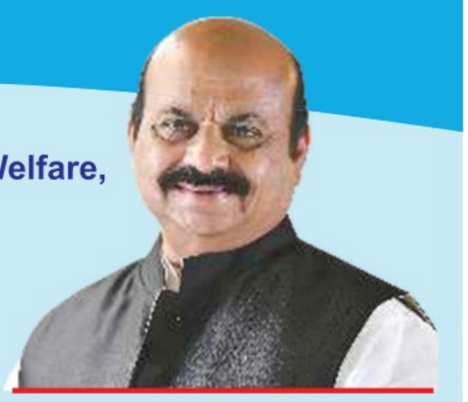
- Vulnerable countries and campaigners argue that rich countries that caused the bulk of climate change with their historical greenhouse gas emissions should pay

Source: Reuters

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Department of Minority Welfare, Haj and Waqf



Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Karnataka State Minorities Commission
Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation
and Karnataka Urdu Academy

It's new office complex
K.M.D.C. Bhavan
(Karnataka Minority Development Corporation Ltd.)
Inauguration Ceremony

Date: 21.11.2022, Monday Time: 5.00 PM
Place: No.39-821, Subedar Chatram Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru

A Warm Welcome to all

Sri M. Saravana
Chairman
Karnataka State Minorities Development Corporation

Sri Abdul Azim
Chairman
Karnataka State Minorities Commission

Secretary to Government
Department of Minority Welfare, Haj and Waqf

Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

Managing Director
Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation

'To Develop Scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry & reform'
- It is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of India, enshrined in our Constitution.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

ONGC expects to reverse years of production decline

21.7 In million tonnes, the crude oil produced by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in FY22. By investing billions of dollars to produce from newer discoveries, the ONGC is expected to reverse years of decline in production and gradually raise output. Crude oil production is slated to rise to 22.823 million tonnes in FY23. PTI

The NPG recommends critical projects for different Ministries

250 The number of critical infrastructure projects of different Ministries recommended by the Network Planning Group (NPG), constituted under the PM GatiShakti initiative, since October 2021, according to the Commerce and Industry Ministry. The GatiShakti-National Master Plan aims to develop integrated infrastructure to reduce logistic costs. PTI

New subscribers added to the EPFO, a retirement fund body

16.82 In lakh, the number of new subscribers added to the retirement fund body, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), on a net basis in September 2022, according to the Labour Ministry. A year-on-year comparison shows a 9.14% increase in net membership this month compared to the year-ago period. PTI

Record revenue earned by FIFA from Qatar World Cup

7.5 In $ billion, the record revenue earned by FIFA in the four years of commercial deals tied to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, the governing body of soccer informed. FIFA revealed its earnings to officials from more than 200 member federations. It is $1 billion more than the income gained from the previous commercial cycle linked to the 2018 World Cup in Russia. AP

The biggest of the eight stadiums to host World Cup final

80 In thousand, the seating capacity of Lusail Stadium, situated 15 kilometres north of Doha's city center, that will host the Football World Cup 2022 final. This is the biggest of the eight stadiums which will host the matches. Al Bayt stadium, which can seat 60,000 people, hosted the opening ceremony and the campaign opener. Agencies

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A first look at the new data protection Bill

How different is the latest draft of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 from the previous Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019? Have the rights for data principals been enhanced? Has the concept of 'sensitive personal data' been removed from the current version of the Bill?

EXPLAINER

Trishee Goyal

The story so far:

The latest draft of the data protection law – the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 (DPDP Bill, 2022) – has now been made open for public comments and the government is expected to introduce the Bill in Parliament in the budget session of 2023.

Is this the first draft?

This is the fourth iteration of a data protection law in India. The first draft of the law – the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018, was proposed by the Justice Srikrishna Committee set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with the mandate of setting out a data protection law for India. The government made revisions to this draft and introduced it as the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 (PDP Bill, 2019) in the Lok Sabha in 2019. On the same day, the Lok Sabha passed a motion to refer the PDP Bill, 2019 to a joint committee of both the Houses of Parliament. Due to delays caused by the pandemic, the Joint Committee on the PDP Bill, 2019 (JPC) submitted its report on the Bill after two years in December, 2021. The report was accompanied by a new draft bill, namely, the Data Protection Bill, 2021 that incorporated the recommendations of the JPC. However, in August 2022, citing the report of the JPC and the "extensive changes" that the JPC had made to the 2019 Bill, the government withdrew the PDP Bill.

Why have there been so many revisions and changes?

Constant interactions with digital devices have led to unprecedented amounts of personal data being generated round the clock by users (data principals). When coupled with the computational power available today with companies (data fiduciaries), this data can be processed in ways that increasingly impair the autonomy, self-determination, freedom of choice and privacy of the data principal.

The current legal framework for privacy enshrined in the Information Technology Rules, 2011 (IT Rules, 2011) is wholly inadequate to combat such harms to data principals, especially since the right to informational privacy has been upheld as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court (*K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* [2017]). It is inadequate on four levels; first, the extant framework is premised on privacy being a statutory right rather than a fundamental right and does not apply to processing of personal data by the government; second, it has a limited understanding of the kinds of data to be protected; third, it places scant obligations on the data fiduciaries which, moreover, can be overridden by contract and fourth, there are only minimal consequences for the data fiduciaries for the breach of these obligations.

While the need to have an effective personal data protection regime is undisputed, India like other jurisdictions has struggled to come up with an optimum formulation for several reasons. First, while protecting the rights of the data principal, data protection laws need to ensure that the compliances for data fiduciaries are not so onerous as to make even legitimate processing impractical. Second, the challenge lies in finding an adequate balance between the right to privacy of data principals and reasonable exceptions, especially where government processing of personal data is concerned. Third, given the rate at which technology evolves, an optimum data protection law design needs to be future proof – it should not be unduly detailed and centred on providing solutions to contemporary concerns while ignoring problems that may emerge going forward. Fourth, the law needs to be designed for a framework of rights and remedies that is readily exercisable by data principals given their unequal bargaining power with respect to data fiduciaries.

ISTOCKPHOTO

What is the scope of the present formulation of the Bill?

The DPDP Bill, 2022 applies to all processing of personal data that is carried out digitally. This would include both personal data collected online and personal data collected offline but is digitised for processing. In effect, by being completely inapplicable to data processed manually, this provides for a somewhat lower degree of protection as the earlier drafts only excluded data processed manually specifically by "small entities" and not generally.

Furthermore, as far as the territorial application of the law is concerned, the Bill covers processing of personal data which is collected by data fiduciaries within the territory of India and which is processed to offer goods and services within India. The current phrasing, inadvertently, seems to exclude data processing by Indian data fiduciaries that collect and process personal data outside India, of data principals who are not located in India. This would impact statutory protections available for clients of Indian start-ups operating overseas, thereby impacting their competitiveness. This position further seems to be emphasised with the DPDP Bill, 2022 exempting application of most of its protections to personal data processing of non-residents of India by data fiduciaries in India.

How well does the DPDP Bill, 2022 protect data principals?

The bulwark of most data protection legislations consists of allowing maximum control to the data principal over their personal data. This happens by mandating a comprehensive notice to the data principal on different aspects of data processing based on which the data principal can provide explicit consent to such processing. While limited circumstances for non-consent based processing of personal data exists, it still gives the data principal the right to access, correct, delete etc their data. Concomitantly, the data fiduciary is placed, inter alia, with the obligation of data minimisation, which is to collect only such personal data as is required to fulfil the purpose of processing (collection limitation); process it only for the purposes stated and no more (purpose limitation) and to retain it in its servers only for so long as is required to fulfil the stated purpose (storage limitation).

The draft Bill recognises the right to post mortem privacy. This would allow the data principal to nominate another individual in case of death or incapacity.

The current draft removes explicit reference to certain data protection principles such as collection limitation. This would allow a data fiduciary to collect any personal data consented to by the data principal. Making collection solely contingent on consent, ignores the fact that data principals often do not have the requisite know-how of what kind of personal data is relevant for a particular purpose. For example, a photo filter app may process data related to your location or information on your contacts even though it may not require such information to carry on its primary task of applying the filter. It also does away with the concept of "sensitive personal data". Depending on the increased potential of harm that can result from unlawful processing of certain categories of personal data, most data protection legislations classify these categories as "sensitive personal data". Illustratively, this includes biometric data, health data, genetic data etc. This personal data is afforded a higher degree of protection in terms of requiring explicit consent before processing and mandatory data protection impact assessments. By doing away with this distinction, the DPDP Bill, 2022 does away with these additional protections.

Additionally, the Bill also reduces the information that a data fiduciary is required to provide to the data principal. While the previous iterations required considerable information in terms of the rights of the data principals, grievance redressal mechanism, retention period of information, source of information collected etc to be provided for the data principal, the current draft reduces the scope of this information to the personal data sought to be collected and the purpose of processing the data.

Moreover, the DPDP Bill, 2022 seems to suppose that a notice is only to be provided to take consent of the data principal. This is a limited understanding of the purpose of notice. A notice is also important for the data principal to exercise data protection rights such as the right to know what personal data is being processed by whom, whether that data needs correction or updation and also to request deletion of data that may not be relevant for the purpose of processing. These rights exist even in cases of non-consent based processing of data. As such, limiting notice to only consent based personal data processing would limit the scope for the exercise of these rights.

The DPDP Bill, 2022 also introduces the concept of "deemed consent". In effect, it bundles purposes of processing which were either exempt from consent based processing or were considered "reasonable purposes" for which personal data processing could be undertaken under the ground of "deemed consent". However, there exist some concerns around this due to the vaguely worded grounds for processing such as "public interest" and the removal of additional safeguards for protection of data principals' interests.

An important addition to the right of data principals is that it recognises the right to post mortem privacy which was missing from the PDP Bill, 2019 but had been recommended by the JPC. The right to post mortem privacy would allow the data principal to nominate another individual in case of death or incapacity.

The writer is a research fellow at the Centre for Applied Law and Technology Research, Vidhi Centre for legal policy

(This is the first of a two-part series on the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022)

THE GIST

The latest draft of the data protection law — the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 (DPDP Bill, 2022) — has now been made open for public comments. This is the fourth iteration of a data protection law in India.

The current legal framework for privacy enshrined in the IT Rules, 2011 is wholly inadequate to combat harms to data principals, especially since the right to informational privacy has been upheld as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* [2017].

The Bill does away with the concept of "sensitive personal data". Sensitive personal data includes biometric data, health data, genetic data etc. This personal data is afforded a higher degree of protection in terms of requiring explicit consent before processing and mandatory data protection impact assessments. By voiding this concept, the DPDP Bill, 2022 does away with all these additional protections.

BIAL to hire private guards for non-core security roles

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In accordance with the Union government's plan to replace Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel with private security guards for non-core security roles at airports across the country, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) is on the lookout to hire private security agencies for providing aviation security services at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

BIAL has issued an request for proposal (RFP) stating that it intends to avail aviation security services from suitably qualified and experienced private security agencies.

The RFP states that the agency bidding for the proposal should have minimum work experience and proven track record of five years or more in the field of private security services.

It further said that the security agency intending

A file photo of Kempegowda International Airport.

to offer its services will have to obtain approval of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) before commencement of operation and deployment.

"The agency shall obtain approval of the security programme from concerned Regional Director, BCAS before commencement of operation/deployment, which shall also be shared with ASG (CISF/Police) and Airport Operator," the RFP said.

In September, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said that private security agency personnel will be deployed at 60 airports for non-core functions in place of CISF.

"In line with the decision of Government of India, a total of 1,924 private security agency personnel will be deployed at 60 airports in place of CISF posted at non-core duty posts. The above decision will reduce the security expenditure and these CISF personnel can be deployed at other airports which will further strengthen the security set-up. This will further help in operationalization of new domestic and international airports," the Ministry had said.

The private security will be taking up non-core security roles such as segregation of passengers at the airport, documents checking among others. Core security functions like baggage scanning, perimeter protection, handling sensitive areas will remain with the CISF personnel.

Man with loaded pistol caught at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Security personnel at the departure terminal of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) nabbed a person carrying a loaded pistol.

The accused booked a ticket to travel in an international flight to Kuwait. The incident happened on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Srinivas S.N, a resident of Mico Road in Chanakeshwanagar.

According to the police, the accused is a political party worker and booked a ticket to Kuwait with his friends.

He had a licence for the pistol. However, he illegally carried the loaded pistol tucking it in his waist, inside the airport.

The security personnel during physical frisking found the pistol and handed him over to the Airport police for further investigation. The accused was booked under Arms Act, a police officer said.

HAL airport seeing an increase in charter flight operations

As per Airport Authority of India data, it operated 1,605 charter flights this year (till September)

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) airport, which served as Bengaluru's primary airport for decades until it ceased commercial flight operations in 2008, has been seeing a steady increase in charter flight operations.

As per the Airports Authority of India (AAI) data, the HAL airport this year (until September) operated 1,605 charter flights. In 2021, during the same period, the airport handled 889 charter flights. Similarly, the airport this year has handled 3,640 passengers as against only 889 passengers last year.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. airport served as Bengaluru's primary airport for decades until it ceased commercial flight operations in 2008. FILE PHOTO

VIP movement

"There are a lot of VIP movements which take place from HAL airport, many businessmen and corporate leaders who use charter flights also land and take off from our airport. On an average, there are around 8-10 movements every day," said an HAL source.

With elections scheduled to take place in 2023 and the State going into the campaign mode already, the number of VIP movements in HAL airport is bound to increase as national leaders from all political parties are expected to heli hop for campaigning.

HAL airport is also the preferred destination for political leaders, and the President, the Vice-President, and the Prime Minister's flights land at the airport when they visit the State.

Helicopter charter flights are also operated from the airport catering to both corporate and leisure travel. Charter flights are also organised by operators to tourist destinations in Karnataka and also neighbouring States.

The source added that the AAI data only pertains to charter flight operations from HAL airport and does not include the aircraft that are used by commercial airlines for training purposes.

"Training flights (for pilots) by the airlines concerned have been carried out at HAL airport, Bengaluru, since June 2015. Training sorties are also done during night time," the source added.

Apart from charter and training flights, military flights, both fighter jets and helicopters manufactured by the defence PSU, are also tested in the airport. The Indian Air Force's flight testing also takes place from the HAL airport, as they use its runway to take off and land their aircraft.

The HAL airport stopped operation of commercial flight operations in May 2008 after the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) located in Devanahalli was inaugurated.

HAL airport cannot operate commercial flights to honour the concessional agreement which was signed between BIAL, the operator of KIA, and the Government of India in 2004. This agreement bars any airport from operating commercial flights within an aerial distance of 150 km from KIA.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, NOV. 21		
RISE	06:21	SET 17:50
RISE	03:40	SET 15:49
TUESDAY, NOV. 22		
RISE	06:21	SET 17:50
RISE	04:33	SET 16:31
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23		
RISE	06:22	SET 17:50
RISE	05:31	SET 17:19

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	19
Mysuru	29	15
Bengaluru	25	15

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool. Spell of light rain or thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be cool. Spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public are hereby informed that my client **MR. FAHAD JAVEED,** Aged about 41 years, S/o D. Mohammed Javeed, R/at: No. 46, 2nd Main, 9th 'A' Main Road, BTM 1st Stage, Near Axis Bank ATM, Bangalore-560 029 is intend to Purchase the schedule property from its owner **MRS.MITALI MALIK,** aged about 34 years, W/o Mr.Sanjib Malik, residing at No.14/1, 2nd Floor, 14th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Sampangirama Nagar, Bangalore-560027.

The general public are hereby notified that in case if any person/s asserting any legitimate right, objection/s or claim over the schedule property or any part thereof, they may forward such right/s or objection/s or claim/s along with the relevant documentary proof, to the undersigned with **7 days** from hereof. All such claims/objections received after **7 days** from the date of notification shall not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential property bearing **Site No.52,** Khatha No.108, CMC Khatha No.177, BBMP Khatha No.52/108 & 177, situated at **Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** presently comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring **1200 square feet,** along with AC sheet shed constructed thereon and bounded on the:-

East by : Site No.51, West by : Site No.53, North by : Road, South by : Site No.61

M.R.REVANNA, Advocate
No.264, 1st Floor, Behind Ganesh Temple
Begur Road, Bommanahalli
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIVEK Karthikeyan, S/o Karthikeyan K, R/o SJ102, Shriram Spandhana, Challaghatta, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my minor daughter's name from Gayatri to GAYATRI KARTHIKEYAN SHENOY for all future purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

We, MASEEHA Sattar and Haseena Sattar Parents of Shagufta residing at 4/5, 5th Cross, Lakshmi Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027 have changed the name of our minor daughter to Shagufta Sattar vide affidavit dated 18-11-2022 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

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CLASSROOM COURSE 21st Nov.
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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE 26th XXVI ADDL. CITY CIVIL SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BENGALURU [CH-20]
O.S. No. 25177/2021
Hg- 18/01/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its branch office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli Hosur Main Road, Bangalore- 560 068 and represented by its Collection Manager
Mr. Pramodh G. ...PLAINTIFF
AND
Mrs. Moyeena Kubra
...DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mrs. Moyeena Kubra
D/o. Liyakhat Ali Khan, Aged about 32 years, R/at. 233/6, 8th Main Road RBI Colony, 1st Block, East Jayanagar, Bangaluru- 560 011
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 5,59,403.36/- as on 29/01/2021 along with interest 24% P.A. and other consequential relief. You are hereby summoned to appear before the **Hon'ble City Civil Judge, Mayo Hall at Bangalore** (CH-20) in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on 18/01/2023 at 11:00 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 17th day of November, 2022.
By Order of this Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayo Hall Unit, Bengaluru
Advocate For Plaintiff
ANVAYA LAW, ADVOCATES AND CONSULTANTS
First Floor, Indian Express Building No.1, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 560001
Cell No. 9845806822

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
M&EE DEPARTMENT
e-Tender No. MEE/22/2022/ DY.CME(MP&OH)
e-Tender is invited for "Alteration, fabrication and SITC of Gate Valves with Electrical Actuators".
Further details/ corrigendum if any Visit www.chennaiport.gov.in & www.eprocure.gov.in
Chief Mechanical Engineer

BUSINESS OFFERS

SUYAMB MANAGEMENT, A Genuine Share Market Trading Company offers Genuine and Principle Safe Returns for your investment. 6% a Month Fixed Returns. Office in Koramangla. Successful 5th Year. All Investments supported with Legal Document. For Details call 90709 90709

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Court of the Additional District Judge VIRUDHUNAGAR
M.C.O.P.No: 26/2019

1. Vijayalakshmi
2. Minor. Malar Sri
3. Minor. Nagajothi
4. Alagammal

(Petitioner 2, 3 through its Mother and Guardian 1st Petitioner) ..... Petitioners

-Versus-

1. R. Girish
2. The Branch Manager, New India Assurance Company ..... Respondents

NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION

To,
R. Girish S/O, Rajaram Resident of door No: 12/2, Dispensary Road, Kalasipalayam, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560002.
Whereas, the above named, petitioners instituted the above noted petition filed against you under section 166 3(1) of Motor Vehicle Act 1988. Notice against you could not serve in ordinary way by registered post. Hence that public notice as taken as information to appear the court to answer the claim of petitioners.
You are here by directed to appear before the court on 09-12-2022 at Hearing 10.30am. to answer the claim of petitioner failing of which the case will be heard and decided in your absence in accordance with law.
G. Rajaguru B.A., B.L.,
Advocate
Cell: 7010578706

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-35)
O. S. NO. 4549/2019
BETWEEN : SRI. VINOD KUMAR CHITRIGEMATH, S/o. Late Sri. Subraya Sadashiva Bhat, Aged about 63 years, R/at No.303, Sriniketh Apartments, MSR Collage Road, Mattikere, Bengaluru - 560054.
: PLAINTIFF
AND: THE OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR OF THE MALLESHWARAM TAILORING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, Having Office at No. 146, 8th Cross, 3rd Main, Margosa Road Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560003 BY, RACHANA MUTHALGERI, OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR AND OTHERS. **: DEFENDANTS**
SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT NO.4,5 AND NOTICE TO THE PROPOSED DEFENDANT NO. 7 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION
DEFENDANT NO.4
PUNEETH N GOWDA,
S/o Sri. Nanjunde Gowda, Aged about 34 years, R/at No. 3416, 6th Cross, 2nd Stage, Gayathri Nagar, Bengaluru - 560021.
DEFENDANT NO.5
SMT. SHANTHAMMA,
W/o Sri. Kempaiah, Aged about 69 years, R/at No.1162, 1st Cross, Jayanagar, Siddapura, Bengaluru.
PROPOSED DEFENDANT NO.7
SMT. NIKITHA P GOWDA,
W/o. Puneeth N Gowda, Aged major, Residing at No. 3416, 1st floor, 13th Main, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010. **:DEFENDANT NOS.4, 5 AND PROPOSED D- 7**
Whereas, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit against the Defendants for the relief of Declaration and consequential injunction in respect of suit schedule property, the Defendant Nos. 4, 5 and Proposed Defendant No. 7 in the above suit, wherefore you are hereby called upon to appear before the XXXIV Addl. city civil Court Bengaluru (CCH-35) the said case stands posted to **12-12- 2022 at 11 AM** for your appearance. You are hereby called upon to appear on that day before the said Court, either personally or through an Advocate. Otherwise, the case will be decided in your absence ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this day month of 2022.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Site No.36/ 1 in the Layout formed by the Malleshwaram Tailoring Co-Operative Society Ltd., Laggere, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and Site Bearing No. 167/1 situated in the Layout formed by Sri. Sathyanarayana Credit C-o- Operative Society Ltd. Both Sites are situated adjacent to one another, together measuring east to west 52 feet and North to South 25 feet having the following boundaries:-
East by : Road; West by : Site No. 161 in Sri. Sathyanarayana Credit Co-Operative Society Ltd. Extention;
North by : Remaining portion of the property belonging to Vendor Namely Sri.G.Gundaiah, South by : Site No.167.
By the Order of the Court
Sd/- Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff :
Sri.T. Seshagiri Rao, Advocate No.230, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru - 560086.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Only Through e-procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/938/ 2022-23 Date: 15.11.2022	Rs.27,36,347/- / Rs. 54,800/-	06.12.2022 upto 4.00 pm	08.12.2022 after 3.00 pm
2		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/938/ 2022-23 Date: 15.11.2022 **Reserved for SC Category**	Rs. 16,98,994/- / Rs. 21,300/-		
3		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/938/ 2022-23 Date: 15.11.2022	Rs. 28,77,534/- / Rs. 57,600/-		
4		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/938/ 2022-23 Date: 15.11.2022 **Reserved for SC Category**	Rs. 29,59,884/- / Rs. 29,600/-		
5		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/938/ 2022-23 Date: 15.11.2022	Rs. 24,38,095/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
6		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/938/ 2022-23 Date: 15.11.2022	Rs. 49,50,162/- / Rs. 99,100/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-1)

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer-Cum-Secretary, 1st Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

7	CAO-Cum-Secretary	BWSSB/CAO-S/PRO-27/312/ 2022-23 Date: 18.11.2022	Rs. 7.33 Lakh / Rs. 18,500/-	28.11.2022 upto 3.00 pm	29.11.2022 after 4.00 pm

Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer-Cum-Secretary

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

8	West-2	BWSSB/EEW-2/TO/PB/905/ 2022-23 Date: 17.11.2022 (Call-2)	Rs. 81,71,011/- / Rs. 1,63,500/-	28.11.2022 upto 4.00 pm	30.11.2022 after 4.30 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)

9	West-1	BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/1753/ 2022-23 Date: 18.11.2022 (Call-2)	Rs. 17,31,984/- (Rs.20,43,741/-) / Rs. 51,100/-	28.11.2022 upto 4.00 pm	29.11.2022 after 4.30 pm
10		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/1749/ 2022-23 Date: 18.11.2022	Rs. 62,36,705/- (Rs. 73,59,312/-) / Rs. 1,47,186/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

11	WWM -Project K&T Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-P)K&T /PB/168/2022-23 Date: 16.11.2022	Rs. 92,07,000/- / Rs. 1,84,140/-	28.11.2022 upto 4.00 pm	29.11.2022 after 4.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-P) K&T Valley

The Details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/3164/Zenkar/2022-23

CACHE

REUTERS

What does the latest FTX fallout mean for the crypto industry?

Why has FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried filed for bankruptcy protection? Who has been appointed to run the FTX bankruptcy? How is the loss of the trading platform going to hit the larger crypto system? Will more regulation and oversight be the norm?

John Xavier
Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On November 11, FTX filed for bankruptcy protection. One of the world's biggest crypto exchanges collapsed after reports emerged about the platform's CEO Sam Bankman-Fried using customer deposits to trade on behalf of FTX's sister firm Alameda Research. The bushy-haired co-founder of both the exchange and the trading unit apologised and resigned after a potential takeover deal by rival exchange Binance failed to materialise. The 30-year-old billionaire's crypto empire collapse is so significant that it dragged Bitcoin's price to a two-year low. Once the darling of the crypto industry with a valuation of $32 billion, FTX is now accused of financial fraud and misuse of customer funds. Mr. Bankman-Fried admitted he was ignorant of his platform's true liquidity and leverage levels when customers requested for "roughly" $5 billion in withdrawals in one day.

What is the genesis of FTX?

Mr. Bankman-Fried was a former quants trader at the global trading firm Jane Street. By the end of 2017, when Bitcoin's price breached $1,000 after years of fluctuation, he moved to Hong Kong to set up investment fund Alameda Research to trade in crypto tokens and derivatives. The skyrocketing rise of the de facto crypto benchmark asset set off a new bull run for cryptocurrency. But the digital coins were not traded at the same price on different exchanges. Mr. Bankman-Fried saw an arbitrage opportunity in this inherent volatility in the crypto ecosystem and two years later, in April 2019, when Bitcoin once again lost its sheen, Mr. Bankman-Fried launched FTX as a platform where traders could buy and sell crypto assets and derivatives.

How does the platform function?

FTX is set up as two verticals. One can be accessed by global users, and the other is specifically built in compliance with U.S. law. The latter, FTX.US, catered to U.S. residents as they could not legally trade on the FTX International platform. FTX claimed to have over one million customers in 2021. FTX International offered investors an option to trade in tokenised stocks, which are digital coin-based derivatives of shares of actual companies. It also allowed users to bet on expected valuations of pre-IPO companies. Such features attracted users to the platform.

What happened after FTX filed for bankruptcy?

At the time of filing for bankruptcy protection, FTX International, one of two websites of the crypto exchange urged visitors to not deposit funds. It also said it was unable to process withdrawals. But its U.S. arm allowed users to create an account on the platform.

As of November 18, it is not clear exactly how many customers have been impacted by FTX halting withdrawals on its platform. The latest crypto crash affected not just FTX users, but also traders investing in top cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ether. Investors holding large reserves of the exchange's own FTT token took a hard hit as it lost most of its value in just hours. About 130 affiliated firms are now part of the bankruptcy proceedings, including Alameda Research and FTX.US. According to a report by *CNBC*, based on the 23-page bankruptcy filing, FTX has more than 1,00,000 creditors, assets in the range of $10 billion to $50 billion, as well as liabilities in the range of $10 billion to $50 billion. By comparison, Lehman had more than $600 billion in assets and Enron had $60 billion.

What happens to FTX after this?

Insolvency professional John Ray III has been appointed to run the FTX bankruptcy. He earlier oversaw the infamous liquidation of Enron two decades ago. In a U.S. court filing on Thursday, he minced no words and said he has never seen "such a complete failure of corporate controls and such a complete absence of trustworthy financial information."

The scathing filing highlighted the compromised system's integrity, faulty regulatory oversight, and concentration of control in the hands of a very small group. It also noted that this group lacked experience and skill. The company did not have a clear account of its own balance sheet. The volatile crypto market is now testing its limits. According to some experts, from here on, the industry could face more regulation while others point out that such events will weed out untrustworthy people within the crypto industry.

How different is this from the Luna, Celsius, and Voyager collapses?

Terra [LUNA] is a cryptocurrency project (not a platform) which collapsed in May this year. Formerly one of the top cryptocurrencies by market capitalisation, the LUNA cryptocurrency and Terra USD [UST] stablecoin lost over 90% of their value. As billions of dollars were lost, the ensuing panic triggered customers to move their funds between platforms or withdraw them altogether. This caused liquidity shortages that prompted lending platforms like Celsius and Voyager to suspend withdrawals, which hastened their own collapse and legal woes.

FTX is a crypto exchange rather than a lending platform. In this case, customers' loss of trust and ensuing withdrawals can be traced back to the company's alleged balance sheet leak two weeks ago.

Furthermore, the drama of the high-profile FTX collapse was different because many crypto investors were familiar with its main players: Binance's charismatic CEO Changpeng Zhao and FTX's maverick former CEO Sam Bankman-Fried. Some analysts even presented the fall of FTX as a 'Game of Thrones' style battle between two crypto billionaires, though Zhao denied these claims. However, at the end of the day, the emerging crypto sector is fearful and in shambles yet again.

What about FTX's political links?

FTX wasn't just a major player in the crypto sector. According to the *Financial Times*, Mr. Bankman-Fried spent $36 million on groups associated with the Democratic Party for the November U.S. mid-term election. However, Mr. Bankman-Fried, co-CEO Ryan Salame, and FTX.US were also reported to have spent millions on both Democrats and Republicans in the past year.

Apart from politics, the Miami-Dade County and the Miami Heat basketball team broke off their partnership with FTX after it collapsed into bankruptcy. The FTX arena in Miami is slated to get a new name in the future.

For insights on emerging themes at the intersection of technology, business and policy, subscribe to our tech newsletter Today's Cache here bit.ly/newslettercache

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here is a quiz related to the FIFA World Cup, one of the most followed quadrennially held world sport events

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

After ace midfielder Andres Iniesta scored the winning goal in the 117th minute against The Netherlands, and helped Spain win its first and only World Cup, who did he dedicate it to? And how?

QUESTION 2

The 1958 World Cup in Sweden, marked the arrival of football superstar Pele (then only 17 years old) and Brazil's first triumph in the World Cup finals. But this World Cup also featured the most goals scored by a single player in one edition. Name the player and his country.

QUESTION 3

This midfielder played for Bayern Munich the most among other clubs and is also a Ballon D'Or winner. He also holds the record for featuring in the most number of World Cup games — 25. Name him.

QUESTION 4

While Pele has won the most World Cups as an individual (representing Brazil in 1958, 1962 and 1970), this Brazilian footballer appeared in three finals of the World Cup (and won two), the most ever. He is also the most internationally capped Brazilian player of all time. Name him.

QUESTION 5

This country's team played the most consecutive matches conceding at least one goal in each of them between 1934 and 1994 (though they did not play in the '58,'70,'74,'78,'82,'86,'90 World Cups) but also played the most minutes without conceding a goal (559 minutes in 1994, 2006 and 2010). Name the country.

Visual question:
What is the significance of this dog in relation to the World Cup? WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the November 18 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The capital and currency of Morocco. **Ans: Rabat and Dirham**
2. The largest city in Morocco. **Ans: Casablanca**
3. In 1912, which two European nations divided the country into protectorates. **Ans: France and Spain**
4. This cylindrical headdress gets its name from this Moroccan city. **Ans: Fez**
5. The Moroccan flag has a red field with this geometrical symbol in the middle. **Ans: A Pentagram**
6. This Moroccan city is called the 'Red City'. **Ans: Marrakech**
7. The common link between Shanghai, Dubai, Chicago, and Bordeaux. **Ans: They are all 'sister cities' of Casablanca**
Visual: This Olympic champion holds the World records for the 1500m and the outdoor mile. **Ans: Hicham El Guerrouj**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Raibandi Ashwin Ratna

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Would you say writing is more your forte?

I have a standing invitation to my friend's place in case my layover becomes a stopover

S. Upendran

"Are your parents looking forward to their trip to the U.S.?"

"Yes, they are. But they're also a bit nervous. It's been a while since they went abroad."

"Are they flying directly to New York?"

"No. They have a layover in Paris."

"That's nice! How many days are they staying in Paris?"

"It's not a stopover, but a layover. A 'layover' is when you spend a few hours at the airport waiting for your connecting flight. It usually happens in the middle of your journey."

"I see. *There's no direct flight to Pune from here. We have a two-hour layover in Mumbai.*"

"That's a good example"

"Tell me, is it wrong to pronounce f..o..r..t..e like the word 'fort'?"

"No, it isn't. It's one way of pronouncing the word."

"One way? Then, what's the other way?"

"Many people make it a two-syllable word. They pronounce the first syllable like the word 'four', and they make the final 'te' rhyme with the words 'say', 'hay' and 'bay'. They pronounce the word 'FOUR-tay' with the stress on the first syllable. Do you know what 'forte' means?"

"Doesn't it mean something that a person is good at? His strong point?"

"That's right! When you say baking is Sunita's forte, what you're suggesting is that Sunita excels at baking. She knows a lot about it and is very good at it."

"How about this example? *I don't know what Anil's forte is, but it's definitely not singing. The guy simply can't carry a tune.*"

"That's a good one! Here's another example. *According to my sister, public speaking is not my forte.*"

"Tell me, where did the word 'forte' come from?"

"It comes from the sport of fencing. The French word 'fort' meaning 'strong point' originally referred to the strongest part of a sword. Later, it took on a broader meaning."

"It began to refer to the strong point of an individual!"

"I guess you could say that. How was dinner at Sujatha's place yesterday? Did her mother make her famous potato curry?"

"Yes, she did. The curry was truly wonderful. Why didn't you come? Didn't Sujatha invite you for her father's birthday?"

"I don't need an invitation from Sujatha to go to her place. I have a standing invitation from her parents."

"Standing invitation?"

"It means the same thing as 'open invitation'. When someone gives you a 'standing invitation', what it means is that you can go and visit them at any time."

"In other words, you're always welcome to their place."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Elan:
enthusiastic and assured vigour and liveliness

Synonyms:
zeal, ardour, flair

Usage: *It was a performance of great elan and sophistication*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/elanpro

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

MANGALURU BLAST: KEY POINTS

PTI

Blast in autorickshaw

Fire and intense smoke engulfed an autorickshaw following a low-intensity blast on Padil-Pumpwell Main Road, Mangaluru, around 5 p.m. on Saturday. Fire started from a bag the passenger was carrying. The auto driver and the passenger sustained burns

IED blast

Battery-operated circuits, nuts, and bolts inside a pressure cooker raised suspicion. FSL experts ruled it to be a low-intensity improvised explosive device (IED) blast. Preliminary reports suggest usage of matchstick phosphorus or gunpowder as explosive. The police suspect the IED went off accidentally on the way to the destination

How the plot unravelled

The police found two leads on the person of the accused: Aadhaar card and his mobile phone

The Aadhaar card was in the name of Premraj Hutagi from Hubballi. The police tracked down the address to find Mr. Hutagi working as an Indian Railways employee in Tumakuru. He lost his Aadhaar card six months ago. The accused replaced Mr. Hutagi's photo with his and was using it

Tower dump analysis of the mobile phone showed he was staying in Mysuru and travelled to Mangaluru on Saturday. The police raided the room he rented a month-and-a-half ago and recovered explosives. He used the forged Aadhaar card to rent the room. The SIM card was bought in Tamil Nadu using another set of fake documents

Mohammed Shariq, 24, the blast accused

The police confirmed the identity of the accused as Mohammed Shariq, 24, from Tirthahalli, a terror accused on the run since September 2022, when his two associates were arrested

Shariq is allegedly an associate of Matheen Ahmed Taha, a prominent member of the Bengaluru-based *Al Hind* Islamic State group, which allegedly wants to establish IS province in the jungles of South India

Shariq was arrested by the Mangaluru police in November 2020 for pro-terror graffiti in the city. "Do not force us to invite Lashkar-e-Taiba and Taliban to deal with Sanghis and Manuvadis. #Lashkar Zindabad", the graffiti read

More detentions The Mysuru police detained an associate of Shariq from T. Narsipur for questioning. Shariq was constantly in touch with him over phone

The Tamil Nadu police detained Surendran, from Udhagamandalam, an associate of Shariq, and it was with his Aadhaar card that the mobile phone found on Shariq was procured in Coimbatore

State police on a wild goose chase before they identify accused in Mangaluru blast

Though initial suspicions were over a possible tyre explosion or a technical glitch in the auto, the evidence at the site led police to conclude otherwise and their probe led them to Mysuru, Hubballi, Shivamogga, and Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MANGALURU /MYSURU/HUBBALLI /SHIVAMOGGA

Police at the house where Mohammed Shariq, accused in the Mangaluru blast, lived in Mysuru, on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

The Karnataka police burned the midnight oil as the trail from the autorickshaw blast in Mangaluru on Saturday evening led them to Mysuru, Hubballi, Shivamogga, and Tamil Nadu.

A passenger hired an autorickshaw, driven by Purushottam, a resident of Mangaluru, at Naguri bus station on the outskirts of Mangaluru to Pumpwell Junction on Saturday evening. Shortly after, there was a blast in the autorickshaw and the vehicle was engulfed in dense white smoke.

Though initial suspicions were over a possible tyre explosion or a technical glitch in the vehicle, the evidence at the site - a pressure cooker rigged with an IED and nuts and bolts - led the police to conclude otherwise.

Police investigators found two leads on the person of the passenger, who was carrying the rigged IED explosive bomb: an Aadhaar card and a mobile phone.

The Aadhaar card was in the name of Premraj Hutagi with a Hubballi residential address. The Hubballi police late on Saturday tracked down the address in Hubballi but were shocked to find Mr. Premraj Hutagi safe and working as a Railway gateman in Tumakuru.

Mr. Premraj Hutagi had allegedly lost his Aadhaar card nearly six months ago.

"I had asked him to lodge a police complaint on losing his Aadhaar card, but he had not," Renuka Hutagi, his mother said.

The blast accused, who had come to possess this missing Aadhaar card, replaced Mr. Premraj Hutagi's photograph with his, police sources said.

The mobile phone found on the person of the blast accused sent the State police on a wild goose chase to Mysuru and Tamil Nadu.

"We took a tower dump of the mobile number for the past three months. We found the suspect travelled from Mysuru to Mangaluru on Saturday morning, probably in a bus. He caught the autorickshaw at Naguri bus station. The tower dump analysis also showed that he stayed in Lokanayak Nagar off the Outer Ring Road in Metagalli Industrial Area in Mysuru, for over a month now. Inquiries on the ground, armed with his photo from the Aadhaar card, led us to a room he had rented in the area," said a senior police official.

Inquiries with the landlord revealed that the person had submitted the forged Aadhaar card, claiming to be Mr. Premraj Hutagi from Hubballi nearly two months ago and rented the portion. He had claimed he was looking for a job in the local factories.

The police, the bomb disposal squad, and the FSL teams raided the room on Sunday morning and found explosive materials, the details of which have not been revealed.

According to police sources, the mobile number that was being used by the blast accused was procured in Tamil Nadu, using another set of fake documents, confirmed the T.N. police.

The tower dump analysis also showed the person travelled extensively in Tamil Nadu over the past few months.

The SIM was procured in Coimbatore, hinting at a possible link to the recent similar blast in the town, which the Tamil Nadu police are looking into.

The identity of the suspected remained a mystery till Sunday afternoon. "The accused has suffered over 40% burns including on his face. But we had his photo on the Aadhaar card. It had similarities to a Mohammed Shariq, a terror accused on the run. The photo on the Aadhaar matched with the one in our records. We also sent photos of him in the hospital to his family members in Tirthahalli, who confirmed his identity," a senior police official said.

Security checks heightened across State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Security checks have been heightened across Karnataka following the low-intensity Improvised Explosive Device blast in Mangaluru on Saturday. The blast is suspected to have been triggered accidentally on the way to the intended destination, mostly in Mangaluru city.

'Several questions'

"There are several questions that remain: including what or who was the target of the intended bomb blast and whether the person was self-radicalised or associated with any terror outfits and whether he had any accomplices," a senior Intelligence official said.

Senior police officials have been directed to step up security measures at Mangaluru, Chikkamagaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, and other parts of the State and to carry out anti-sabotage checks at airports, bus stands, railway stations, religious and public places, and tourist spots.

The entry and exit of communally-sensitive areas have also been checked for the suspicious persons, a police officer said.

Probe into blast incident will reveal links, if any, with PFI: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that the police investigation into Saturday's Mangaluru blast would reveal links with the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), if any, even as he said that the blast - prima facie - looked like an act of terror.

Speaking to reporters in Ballari, the Chief Minister said the National Investigation Agency and other agencies had already visited the spot as part of the probe.

'Act of terror'

"The police have taken this case seriously and have started investigation. It looks like a LED-type equipment has been used in the incident. *Prima facie*, the incident looks like an act of terror."

Stating that the government would crack this case, he said: "Since the accused had visited several places, including Coimbatore, he may have links with terror groups. This information has been shared by the police after a preliminary probe. Links if any with PFI will be known after a thorough investigation," he added.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said that the patient was being given the best treatment but was not in a position to give a statement.

"Preliminary investigation by the Mangaluru police shows that there is a big background to the incident and it is linked to terror. Both Central and State agencies are working together, and more details could emerge in a day or two."

Railway gateman gets terror scare on his birthday

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Premraj Hutagi, 29, working as a Railway gateman in Tumakuru, was in for a shock on Saturday, on his birthday, as he was questioned in a terror-related bomb blast case.

The Mangaluru city police found an Aadhaar card with his name and his Hubballi residential address on the bomber, following which the Hubballi Police reached his home on Saturday night.

His family was in for a rude shock as the police came knocking on their doors, checking for their son, and asking if he was involved in a bomb blast.

His parents, Marutirao Hutagi and Renuka Hutagi, vouched for their son, and called him up to prove he was not in Mangaluru, but in Tumakuru.

"A sub-inspector called me at around 8 p.m. asking about my whereabouts and asked for my photograph, which I sent. I work as a Railway gateman and was working the night shift from 7 p.m. on Saturday to 7 a.m. on Sunday, which I asked the police to check themselves. The police turned up to verify and only then cleared me," he said, speaking to pressperson in Tumakuru on Sunday.

Soon, Praveen Sood, DG & IGP, Karnataka State Police, tweeted, "Premraj is a victim of identity theft. It's confirmed. He has nothing to do with this incident", clearing him of any wrongdoing.

Mr. Premraj Hutagi told media persons that he had lost his Aadhaar card twice in the last one year, once in Hubballi and another time in a bus.

"I had not registered a complaint, but had applied and downloaded new copies. I never imagined that my Aadhaar card could be misused like this, that too for a terror attack," he added.

From Page One

Mohammed Shariq: From pro-terror graffiti writer to blast accused

They had arrested Maaz Muneer Ahmed, 22, and Syed Yasin, 21, and recovered explosive materials from the duo.

Investigations had uncovered that they were radicalised by Shariq and had learnt to make bombs through PDF files, videos and several materials sent to them by him. The duo had prepared an IED and tested it successfully on the banks of Tungabhadra, the police had alleged. Incidentally, Maaz Muneer Ahmed was a co-accused in the graffiti case with Shariq in 2020.

Kadalekai Parishe sees more footfall this time

Bharath Gowda B.R.
BENGALURU

The crowd at the annual groundnut fair at Basavangudi on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Kadalekai Parishe (an annual groundnut fair), which has been low key after the outbreak of the pandemic, is attracting more footfall this year. Even before the formal inauguration of the fair, hundreds of people with their family members flocked to Bull Temple Road to take part.

On Sunday evening, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai inaugurated the fair in Basavanagudi. Hundreds of farmers from Kolar, Tumakuru, Madhugiri, Pavagada, Mulabagil, and Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu, and other States put up their stalls to sell different varieties of groundnuts.

Bhagyamma, a farmer from Tumakuru, said, "I have been coming here to sell groundnuts for over 20 years. Last year, owing to the pandemic the crowd was less. This time, people started visiting on Sunday itself. We are hoping for better business this time."

Mani, a vendor from Tamil Nadu, said, "Farmers growing groundnut faced several problems due to heavy rainfall. We are selling raw groundnut for ₹50 per seru (a measure) but customers are asking for a lesser price."

Interestingly, many vendors have displayed the boards requesting customers to bring their own bags. Sellers accepting QR-based money transfers in large numbers were another highlight. Suresh P. from R.T. Nagar said, "I have come here with my family. The parishe is a quintessential part of Bengaluru."

Sumana Chethan, a resident of Banashankari, said, "As it was the weekend, people came in a large number. Earlier, the parishe was focused on selling raw, roasted, and boiled groundnuts. Over the years, we can see many more additions stalls selling toys to household items."

APPOINTMENT

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office, 254-260, Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Royapettah, Chennai-600014

ENGAGEMENT OF SPECIALISTS IN DIGITAL MARKETING, ANALYTICS CoE AND DIGITIZATION ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

Details of Vacancies

Vertical	Role	Description	Vacancies
Digital Marketing	Social media specialist	Manage agency relations and deliverables	2
		Review social media calendar	
	Partnerships and Affiliates lead	Forge new brand and affiliate partnerships in line with business requirements	1
		Closely track and document platform performance for future reference	
	Creatives expert	Give inputs on creatives to agencies	2
		Create/monitor email, video, SMS creatives	
Analytics CoE	Data engineers	Define data storage and governance strategy / policy	2
Digitization dept.	UI / UX designers	Define unified customer experience, provide inputs to UI/ UX of customer facing solutions	2
		Total	**9**

Mode of application	Offline application as per the prescribed format uploaded in career page of Banks' website www.indianbank.in
Application Fee	₹ 1000/- (Inclusive of taxes)
Last date of receipt of application	05.12.2022
Eligibility Criteria and Experience	Please visit career page of **www.indianbank.in** for full details.

Place: Chennai **General Manager (CDO)**

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INBRIEF

Congress to hold SC, ST convention in Chitradurga

The Congress is expected to up the election ante after the winter session in Belagavi. It plans to hold a massive convention of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the first week of January in Chitradurga. According to party sources, another convention of the backward classes is being planned in Shivamogga after the second week of January. All the top leadership will put up an united face when they embark on a bus yatre in the beginning. At a later stage, they will branch out as four teams to cover the entire State, sources said.

Kumaraswamy promises waiver of Stree Shakti loans

Former Chief Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday promised to waive off loans of Stree Shakti groups across the State within 24 hours if the JD(S) is elected to power. His announcement came during the Pancharatna Yatra in Malur Assembly constituency in Kolar district. Earlier on Friday, he had said that though he wanted to waive off Stree Shakthi loans that totalled to about ₹1,000 crore in 2018, he could not do so as his JD(S)-Congress coalition government collapsed.

MLA assaulted over woman's death in elephant attack

M.P. Kumaraswamy, Mudigere MLA, was allegedly assaulted by people protesting over the death of a woman in an elephant attack at Hullemane on Sunday evening. The incident occurred when the BJP MLA visited the village to convey his condolences to the family of Shobha, 45, who was killed in the jumbo attack. The protesters took the MLA to task and tore his shirt. Speaking to the media, the MLA said the attack on him was the result of a conspiracy hatched by vested interests.

Congress has betrayed aspirations of oppressed communities, says Nadda

Conference of Scheduled Tribes sees massive turnout; BJP leaders draw attention of the crowd to the govt.'s decision to increase quota for SCs, STs

Kumar Buradikatti
BALLARI

The conference of Scheduled Tribes organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party as part of its planned community-based mobilisations in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections in the State witnessed a massive turnout in Ballari on Sunday. Most of the people belonged to the Valmiki (Naik) community and arrived mainly from Raichur, Yadgir, Koppal, Vijayanagara, and Chitradurga districts apart from Ballari.

BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, party's national general secretary C.T. Ravi, Ministers Govind M. Karjol and B. Sriramulu, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and Arjun Munda, who addressed the crowd, sought to draw the attention of the people towards the State government's recent decision to increase quota for the Scheduled Castes from 15% to 17% and Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7% and attacked the Opposition Congress for not doing anything similar during its regime in the past.

"You [Congress] saw the SCs, STs, and OBC communities as vote bank and did nothing for their development. Siddaramaiah (Leader of the Opposition) always claims that backward communities are with the Congress. If he comes and sees this massive gathering, he would realise which party the backward communities are with," Mr. Bommai said.

BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, and other BJP leaders at the party's Scheduled Tribes' conference in Ballari on Sunday. SRIDHAR KAVALI

Tributes paid

Mr. Nadda, who began his speech with a tribute to Madakari Nayaka of Chitradurga, one of the icons of Naik community who fought Mysuru ruler Hyder Ali in the 18th century, went on to attack the Congress for what he termed as "betrayal of the oppressed sections".

"Congress did hardly anything for the development of backward and tribal communities. It betrayed the aspirations of these communities. It is only after the BJP assumed power at the Centre that an Adivasi woman could become the President of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured Adivasis by making Droupadi Murmu the President. Why didn't such a thought flash in anybody's mind in the last 70 years? The BJP is working towards bringing all the marginalised communities into mainstream," Mr. Nadda said.

Hailing Mr. Bommai's government in the State, Mr. Nadda called upon the people to protect the government which, he said, was working for the upliftment of the oppressed sections. "Mr. Bommai is working day and night for the development of all sections. The government is concerned about Dalits, backward classes, poor and marginalised sections of the society and it is your responsibility to protect the government," Mr. Nadda said. "We are not complacent and we will not keep quiet just by increasing the reservations to SCs and STs. We will continue to do everything for the development of these communities," Mr. Bommai said.

Mr. Munda said that the Union government had released funds for the Karnataka government for developing 500 tribal hamlets into modern villages in the State. He also added that 12 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools would be built in the State, including one in Ballari.

Sriramulu's fans go crazy

The Hindu Bureau
BALLARI

The emotionally charged fans of Transport Minister B. Sriramulu went crazy when their leader was addressing them at the Scheduled Tribes' conference in Ballari on Sunday.

Applauds, cheers, and whistles reverberated whenever Mr. Sriramulu's name was taken by other speakers in the public meeting. However, when Mr. Sriramulu himself approached the podium to deliver the introductory remarks, his fans went crazy with joyful cries and whistles.

Visibly excited by his fans craziness, Mr. Sriramulu, who played a key role in organising the event, responded with an aggressive attack on Congress and its leader Siddaramaiah. In typical Ballari-style, he tied a towel to his head symbolising his readiness to fight and invited his opponents for the fight. His words and actions further took his fans' emotions to the next level. Not just fans, even the party leaders who were on stage appeared to be thrilled to see Mr. Sriramulu's style and aggressiveness.

Congress to check electoral roll deletions in all 224 constituencies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The row over alleged voter data theft and deletion of names from the voters' list in Bengaluru may assume wider proportions as the Congress has asked its booth-level agents across all 224 Assembly constituencies in the State to scrutinise the deleted names from Monday.

Sources said that the agents have been asked to coordinate with booth-level officers.

"The exercise will start on Monday itself. If it is found that names of the persons have been deleted, measures will be taken to get their names back on the electoral rolls ahead of the elections," sources said, adding that the party believes that the names of its supporters have been deleted the most, and that too in constituencies where it is stronger.

Agents have been asked to coordinate with booth-level officers, and the exercise will start today

"The names of those added to the electoral list will also be checked. Instructions have been given to report the findings to the KPCC at thee earliest."

The decision was taken on Sunday at a meeting of senior leaders including KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah in the light of the scandal revolving around the NGO Chilume, which is accused of stealing the voters' data.

"The exercise to find out the details of the deleted persons will be done across all constituencies though the NGO has indulged in election fraud around Bengaluru," sources said.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumarawamy in Kolar has urged the Election Commission to take action against those responsible. "The accusations that the names of those opposed to the BJP have been deleted are serious."

He wondered how the truth could come out if the government is involved.

'Tipu's Real Dreams' staged amid tight security

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The play *Tipu's Real Dreams,* which is embroiled in controversy for alleged distortion of history and demonising the 18th century ruler, made its stage debut at Rangayana on Sunday amidst tightpolice security.

The play is written by Rangayana director Addanda C. Cariappa who has stated that it is based on letters of Tipu Sultan which are preserved in the British Library and has been translated into Kannada by Chidananda Murthy. The controversy stems from the statements of Mr. Cariappa that the play will "unmask the true nature" of the ruler who, Mr. Cariappa alleged, has been glorified in history books.

Rangayana director A.C. Cariappa (left) ushers former director C. Basavalingaiah to the auditorium after he was stopped from entering the premises, in Mysuru on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

This created a political storm with Tanvir Sait, MLA, and other leaders threatening to approach the court to bring a stay on the play on the grounds that not only was the ruler being demonised but a community was being vilified. Bhoomigeetha where the play was staged has a capacity to accommodate about 250 people but there appeared to be more number of policemen.

The former Rangayana Director C. Basavalingaiah and journalist T. Gururaj, who has authored a book on Tipu, were prevented from entering the Rangayana premises though they had purchased tickets to view the play. The police said they had information that the two would interrupt the play and stage a protest and hence were being denied entry. This led to a war of words and both sat on a dharna. The police relented after taking an assurance that they would not cause any disruption. Mr. Basavalingaiah complained to Mr. Cariappa who welcomed him and ushered him to the auditorium.

Meanwhile, sources said that a group of lawyers close to Rangayana director have already filed a caveat to pre-empt the critics of the play from bringing a stay.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Chastised like an errant child

There appears to be a standing instruction to all Lambani (Banjara) leaders in the State BJP to never miss a single opportunity to highlight government's decision to upgrade all Lambani Tandas into revenue villages, and win over the hearts of Tanda dwellers ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled for early next year.

However, Umesh Jadhav (*in picture*), Kalaburagi MP, who belongs to the Lambani community, missed this crucial point in his brief speech at a public meeting organised for launching the Viveka Scheme at Madihal Tanda in Kalaburagi district on Monday.

Mr. Jadhav, who appeared unprepared, spoke for a few minutes without mentioning a word on the Tanda upgradation initiative. When he left the podium and started walking back to his seat on the dais, a visibly upset Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai sternly asked him to speak on the issue.

Embarrassed, Mr. Jadhav immediately returned to the podium and spoke on what he had missed, quite like an errant student punished.

Behind-the-scenes manoeuvres

Politics may be the art of the possible. But it also requires dexterity and some behind-the-scenes manoeuvring to achieve the desired outcome.

And proof of how former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has mastered this craft was disclosed nearly two decades after an incident involving him during a book release event in Mysuru recently.

The former Advocate-General Ravivarma Kumar (*in picture*), who shares a good rapport with Mr. Siddaramaiah and is privy to certain developments hidden from the public, shared this with the audience during the event.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who was then in the JD(S), was the Deputy Chief Minister in the Dharam Singh-led coalition government. Through his sources, he learnt that the Chief Minister was likely to convene an emergency meeting to discuss excise policy to which Mr. Siddaramaiah was averse.

Before the date and the timing of the meeting could be notified, Mr. Siddaramaiah summoned the Excise Commissioner early next morning and instructed him to "disappear with the files and not be seen around Vidhana Soudha till evening," recalled Mr. Kumar.

As it transpired, the "emergency meeting" was announced the same day and fixed for the fore-noon session. But in the absence of the Excise Commissioner and the relevant files, the meeting concluded without making any headway.

Though Siddaramaiah had his way, it is not clear as to how the hapless bureaucrat later extricated himself from the tricky situation.

Kumar Buradikatti
R. Krishna Kumar

NHA lauds State's online referral system

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Karnataka's online referral of patients from a government hospital to an empanelled higher facility for secondary and tertiary treatment under the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) scheme has won appreciation at the national level.

Noting that Karnataka is the first State to implement the online referral system (ORS), the National Health Authority (NHA) – the central agency implementing the health scheme – has recognised the module as one of the best practices in the country.

The scheme covers 1,650 procedures – 294 simple secondary, 251 complex secondary, 934 tertiary care procedures, and 171 emergency procedures. While the simple secondary procedures are completely handled at the government hospital level, for all other procedures patients need to be referred by a government hospital to a private facility if the former is not equipped to treat.

The manual process used for referral prior to June involved filling out a pre-printed form physically. The old process was time consuming for doctors and also caused inconvenience to patients.

Although the online referral module was piloted in one taluk hospital and finalised in February 2020, implementation in all hospitals began only from June 1. Since then, till October end, 11,823 online referrals had been made.

"The objective of this module is to help identify hospitals where the patients could go to and prevent unnecessary referrals and an unhealthy nexus of the government and private institutions," State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said.

The Commissioner, who was the in-charge executive director of the State Health Agency – Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST) till September, said now the capabilities and specialities of all public health institutions (PHI) and empanelled hospitals are mapped to the online referral system for which login credentials are given to public hospitals.

"The system searches for availability of specialities in the PHIs of respective districts. If the speciality is available, it will refer the patient to the PHI or empanelled hospital. If there is no availability, the system provides a list of hospitals in ascending order of proximity. This has ensured that patients utilise the government hospital facilities, thereby aiding in capacity and capability building of the government hospitals," he explained.

"It also helps to understand and prioritise the gaps that need to be filled in government hospitals. Besides, the hospitals receiving the patients can also access their records," the Commissioner said.

Great knot sighting untangles a migration mystery

SPECIAL

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Unveiling yet another mystery of avian migrations, a great knot from Russia, belonging to the endangered *Calidris tenuirostris* (Horsfield, 1821), has found its way to Kerala's coast, flying over 9,000 km for a winter sojourn.

The migratory bird that traversed the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) is only one of the two – the other has been sighted at Jamnagar in Gujarat – great knots to be re-sighted in India among the nearly thousand ones tagged with MOSKVA rings in the Kamchatka peninsula in eastern Russia.

Bird watching

The bird was sighted by birdwatchers P.P. Sreenivasan, Kalesh Sadasivan and Samkumar P.B. while on a coastal migrant bird watching expedition on the Chavakkad beach in Thrissur district on November 15. It came calling in a flock of 14 great knots and about 150 migratory waders, including a rare straggler Caspian plover, grey plover, whimbrel, sanderling, lesser sand plover and about a hundred seagulls.

Long journey: The ring that established the Russian connection of the migratory bird. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Mr. Sreenivasan, a veteran birder who has been monitoring the Thrissur coasts for over two decades, the engraving on the bird's ring that read TC 32469 MOSKVA provided a vital clue on its Russian connection.

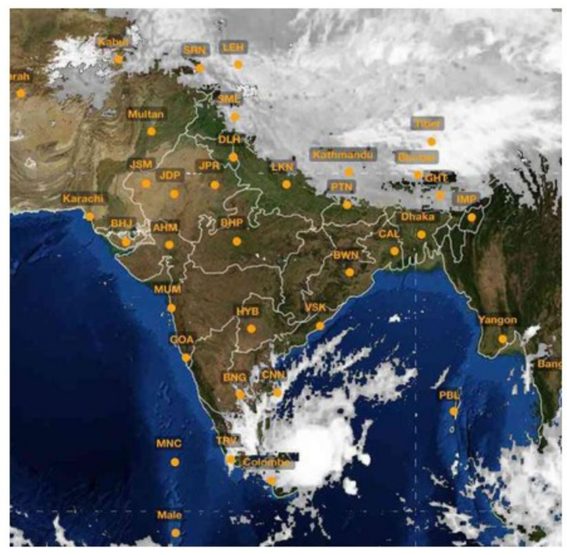
Mr. Samkumar and Dr. Sadasivan, who represent the Birders Sans Borders and the Travancore Natural History Society, nature conservation groups based in Thrissur and Thiruvananthapuram, respectively, then managed to establish contact with Dmitry Dorofeev, whose team has been counting and ringing shorebirds in the estuary of the Khairusova-Belogolovaya River in Kamchatka.

The Russian scientists confirmed the juvenile great knot had been tagged in the estuary with a marked ring on its leg on August 12. These long-distance migrants stay in the Yellow Sea region and Thailand in southeast Asia before proceeding to their southerly winter grounds, including Peninsular India along the CAF, one of the nine most important flyways of migratory birds.

The migratory route suggested the bird that flew to Thrissur travelled over 9,000 km. Another bird that was tagged 6Z has been sighted at Jamnagar for the past three consecutive years.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely over north coastal Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, south Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over south Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.7	17.9	Kozhikode	—	33.4	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	32.2	14.2	Kurnool	—	29.4	18.2
Aizawl	—	—	15.6	Lucknow	—	27.8	13.1
Allahabad	—	27.5	11.4	Madurai	—	30.2	19.1
Bengaluru	—	24.2	15.4	Mangaluru	—	32.7	20.6
Bhopal	—	—	10.2	Mumbai	—	31.6	22.2
Bhubaneswar	—	28.0	17.8	Mysuru	—	—	14.9
Chandigarh	—	27.4	10.9	New Delhi	—	26.4	11.0
Chennai	—	28.3	21.3	Patna	—	—	13.9
Coimbatore	—	31.2	18.0	Port Blair	—	30.7	25.6
Dehradun	—	27.2	10.9	Puducherry	—	30.6	19.4
Gangtok	—	19.0	10.2	Pune	—	26.6	10.6
Goa	—	32.0	19.6	Raipur	—	27.3	10.6
Guwahati	—	29.0	13.4	Ranchi	—	29.2	10.7
Hubballi	—	29.0	15.0	Shillong	—	23.1	12.0
Hyderabad	—	28.0	14.2	Shimla	—	17.7	7.5
Imphal	—	28.4	10.7	Srinagar	—	13.2	3.2
Jaipur	—	—	12.8	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	31.7	22.8
Kochi	—	30.2	24.4	Tiruchi	—	31.3	21.0
Kohima	—	20.2	6.6	Vijayawada	—	28.0	18.2
Kolkata	—	30.0	16.5	Visakhapatnam	—	29.7	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.39	101	...8	73	...103	
Bengaluru	...7	..28	.60	...187	...123	
Chennai	...8	..65	.41	...148	...131	
Delhi	.11	..43	.60	...388	...282	
Hyderabad	.32	..31	.81	...152	...133	
Kolkata	...8	..36	.29	...219	...151	
Lucknow	.12	..54	.48	...264	...195	
Mumbai	.81	133	100	...241	...157	
Pune	...5	9	.43	24	...294	
Visakhapatnam	.26	..48	.25	85	...110	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Moithari, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 423 indicating a severe level of pollution.
In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Bills on replacing Governor as Chancellor taking shape

14 new Bills by Kerala government will seek to amend the original Acts of the 14 State universities to replace the Governor with reputable academics as the Chancellor of the universities

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The draft Bills, which will replace the now-infructuous Ordinance to remove the Kerala Governor as the Chancellor of the State universities, will get a final shape this week. The State government has begun deliberations at various levels to firm up the legislation.

In a politically significant move, the State Cabinet had on last week decided to convene the Legislative Assembly and communicated the decision to the Raj Bhavan, though it had submitted the draft Ordinance for the approval of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan. The government has proposed to convene the Assembly on December 5.

Arif Mohammed Khan

The Ordinance and the legislation are seen as the LDF government's political reply to the criticism aired by Mr. Khan against the government and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

14 new Bills

The 14 new Bills which are to be presented at the session would seek to amend the original Acts of the 14 State universities to replace the Governor, who is also the Chancellor, with eminent and reputed academicians as the Chancellor of the universities.

The Bill may also define who would be qualified to be termed reputed academicians. The draft Ordinance had suggested that the Chancellors would be eligible for reappointment for one more term.

The draft Ordinance had placed the financial burden of Chancellor appointment on the universities concerned, by terming the position honorary, thus saving the government from the financial responsibility of the post. The Bills are likely to retain most of the provisions of the draft Ordinance. The Bills are expected to get a final form by later this week, sources indicated.

From Page One

Prime accused in voters' data 'theft' arrested

Earlier, the Halasuru Gate police arrested Kempe Gowda, one of the directors of the trust.

When the efforts to track him down through his phone failed, based on the information by his family members, the police chased him down to a friend's place in Nelamangala.

However, he gave them the slip and then the police went to Dobbaspet, where he escaped again and was finally arrested from a friend's place in Shidlaghatta late on Sunday. Investigation showed Kempe Gowda had destroyed his mobile phone in Nelamangala to mislead the police.

Meanwhile, the police also detained the main software developer of the Digital Sameeksha app which was recording the voters data, allegedly illegally collected by the trust. The police are also analysing the app used to ascertain what data was collected and for whom it was meant.

The developer is being questioned to ascertain the purpose of the app and its applications, Srinivas Gowda, DCP, Central Division, said.

Earlier, the police arrested Dharanesh and Renuka Prasad in connection with the case. They were produced before the court and taken into police custody for further investigation.

Why research matters

R. W. Alexander Jesudasan

Intensive research does not merely encompass exploratory/investigative work done systematically following appropriate methodology and culminating in a thesis for the award of a research degree. It is also a series of interactions between the scholar and the research guide, scientists and authorities in the field of study, participating and presenting research papers in conferences, publishing one's research in peer-reviewed journals, filing patents and executing projects. In each area, much is learnt and gained, for the ultimate benefit of society at large.

Scholars have diverse views on the University Grants Commission's recent guidelines removing the mandatory publication of research papers in peer-reviewed journals before submission of the doctoral thesis. While one retired scientist felt that a scholar spends a substantial amount of time on full-time Ph.D. course work and methodology and the insistence on publishing research papers could lead to lowering the quality of research; another who is currently a professor in Karnataka insists that a candidate should produce a good number of publications not just in UGC-listed journals but also in the best peer-reviewed ones.

Benefits

In my own case, the major content of my thesis was published as a monograph from the U.S., and other components found place in good journals so that, at the of my full-time research degree, I had over a dozen good publications. As writing research papers was inculcated early, I benefitted as an active researcher with papers at the national and international conferences/journals and through delivering special lectures in reputed universities. Personally, as an entomologist, not only did I conduct research but also interacted with scholars and scientists from diverse backgrounds. This offered tremendous benefits on various aspects of my work. Hence, students should not be asked to focus only on their thesis; instead they should be encouraged to take up research alongside their primary work.

On the implementation side, there are deemed-to-be-universities in the country that do not want to digress from the original UGC regulation of 2016, which found publishing research papers by the scholars to be beneficial to the student, research guide and the institution, as they improve the institution's performance in NAAC accreditation or NIRF ranking and the like.

Scholars who are glued to their thesis work do not develop into well-rounded personalities. Think of the able scientists of the country who were also excellent administrators. This was due to the multiple exposure gained in areas apart from their primary research. Therefore, allowing a scholar to focus only on the thesis and not have experience of other research domains may deprive him/her of vital knowledge at a time when the educational world is encouraging interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary exposure.

Views expressed in this article are personal.

The writer is Pro Vice-Chancellor Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (Deemed-to-be University), Chennai.

SAVE THE DATE

Study in Sweden

The Embassy of Sweden in India, the Office of Science and Innovation in New Delhi, in collaboration with and the Nordic Centre India are organising Study in Sweden fairs this week. Students can meet representatives of leading Swedish universities, receive information regarding scholarships, visas and student life in Sweden. In Bengaluru, on November 23 (2.00 to 4.00 p.m.) at Hotel Taj Yeshwantpur). To register, visit bit.ly/3GmZNCV

Incremental win

COP-27 commits to compensation fund, but leaves important questions for later

The two-week long climate conference in Egypt has drawn to a close with a symbolic victory in the form of a fund that will compensate some of the countries bearing the brunt of climate change-linked natural disasters. However, progress on action to keep temperatures from rising beyond 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels was limited. The 27th edition of the United Nations Conference of the Parties was projected to be an 'implementation' COP that would have decisively resolved questions on how developed countries, responsible for the bulk of historical emissions, would make good on an old promise to provide developing countries $100 billion annually by 2020. And whether the world would commit to end all categories of fossil fuel, and not just coal. Despite hours of negotiations, these deadlocks remain. COP-27 will certainly be remembered as the COP of Loss and Damages (L&D). A nearly three-decade old movement, first initiated by the island nation of Vanuatu and the Alliance of Small Island States, has come to partial fruition. There will now be a dedicated fund to compensate the most vulnerable developing countries that are already bearing the brunt of climate change-linked natural disasters. L&D refers to impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided either by mitigation (cutting greenhouse gas emissions) or adaptation (modifying practices to buffer against climate change impacts). They also include not only economic damage to property but also loss of livelihoods, and the destruction of biodiversity and sites that have cultural importance. This broadens the scope for affected nations to claim compensation.

The text approved at Sharm el-Sheikh only commits to a fund being created and leaves discussions for how it is to be set up and, most importantly, who will pay how much to it, for future COP negotiations. While there have been nominal commitments by Scotland and Wallonia (Belgium) to donate to such a fund, the estimated L&D is already over $500 billion. During negotiations this year, the European Union pressed hard for China, the Arab states and "large, developing countries" – and this could include India – to contribute on the grounds that they were large emitters. This already opens up fresh occasion for acrimony in future COPs and given that barely a third of committed climate finance has made its way to developing countries, the L&D fund too might take years before it can meaningfully operate. While the gain is incremental, countries ought not to lose momentum and must work harder to ensure that COPs remain credible catalysts and are not occasions for pyrrhic victories.

On the edge

Russia should create conditions for a constructive dialogue with Ukraine

The missile incident in Poland, in which two people were killed, should serve as a warning: the Ukraine conflict could potentially spill over into a wider war between nuclear-armed Russia and NATO. The Russian invasion of its neighbouring country and NATO's decision to back Ukraine with military supplies have brought the two sides to an eyeball-to-eyeball situation, with only a spark needed for a conflagration. Immediately after the missile exploded inside Polish territory, which is a part of NATO, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy blamed Russia, calling it an attack on the West's collective security and a significant escalation. Russia quickly distanced itself from the incident, but at least for a few hours, the world was on edge amid fears of this incident triggering an open war between Russia and NATO. But NATO leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, responded firmly and responsibly. Mr. Biden, who was in Bali to attend the G20 meeting, publicly refuted Mr. Zelenskyy's claim, saying it was unlikely that the missile came from Russia, which Polish and NATO authorities confirmed later. What hit Poland was a Russian-made S300 defence missile, most likely fired by Ukraine against a Russian missile, they said. While their sober response avoided a showdown, the incident has highlighted the risks of this hair-trigger situation.

Mr. Zelenskyy's comment was irresponsible. His anger towards Russia is justifiable given that his country is being bombarded on a daily basis, but as the President of Ukraine, what he says will have consequences, and he should wait for the facts and respond cautiously when it comes to NATO-Russia tensions. Russia should understand that Ukraine is now a tinderbox. To overcome its battlefield failures, Russia is now deliberately targeting Ukrainian infrastructure with repeated missile attacks. A misfire could turn the nightmare into reality. All stakeholders, primarily Russia which started the war, have the responsibility to put in place the guardrails against escalation. They should turn the diffusion of the Polish crisis into an opportunity for open dialogue. As the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark A. Milley, pointed out, the conflict could enter a frozen stage during winter. Despite Ukraine's territorial gains, it is unlikely its forces will be able to expel Russians from all captured territories through force, he said, making his case for talks. Mr. Zelenskyy, reportedly under U.S. pressure, changed his earlier position that he would not hold talks with Mr. Putin. So, there is a small window for de-escalation. Russia must respond with concrete proposals and create conditions for a constructive dialogue.

Charting the economic journey ahead

The big question before India is where its economy will be 25 years from now. By 2047, India will complete 100 years after Independence. By that time, will India achieve the status of a developed economy, which means achieving a minimum per capita income equivalent to $13,000? We also need to know what the global situation would be like because India cannot be decoupled from the rest of the world.

India's economic journey started with Independence. It is not realised often that India's economic progress in the first half of the 20th century under British rule was dismal. According to one estimate, during the five decades, India's annual growth rate was just 0.89%. With the population growing at 0.83%, per capita income grew at 0.06%. It is not surprising that immediately after Independence, growth became the most urgent concern for policymakers.

C. Rangarajan

is former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and a former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

Early strategy

In the early period, India's strategy of development comprised four elements – raising the savings and investment rate; dominance of state intervention; import substitution, and domestic manufacture of capital goods. To some extent, policymakers in India in the 1950s and 1960s were handicapped. At that time, there was no clear model available for accelerating growth in developing countries. State intervention on an extensive scale seemed to be appropriate, even though there were some critics even at that time. However, by the end of 1970s, it was becoming clear that the model India had chosen was not delivering and that it needed modification. By that time, there were many more critics of the Indian strategy. But India's policymakers refused to recognise this. It was around that time China made a big change.

It was the crisis of 1990-91 that compelled the policymakers to turn to an 'idea whose time had come'. The break with the past came in three important directions: first, in dismantling the complex regime of licences and permits; second, in redefining the role of state; and third, in giving up the inward looking trade policy.

India's average growth till the end of the 1970s remained modest, with the average growth rate being 3.6%. With a population growth of 2.2%, the per capita income growth rate was extremely modest at 1.4%. However, on certain health and social parameters, such as the literacy rate and life expectancy, there were noticeable improvements. While India had to rely on the heavy imports of foodgrains on a concessional basis, initially, there was a breakthrough in agriculture after the Green Revolution. The industrial base also widened. India became capable of producing a wide variety of goods including steel and machinery. While India's post-Independence economic performance was reassuring when compared to the pre-Independence period, it is not that impressive when compared with that of several developing countries even in Asia. It was also less than India's expectations. Plan after plan, actual growth was less than what was projected. The Indian economy did grow at 5.6% in the 1980s. But it was accompanied by a sharp deterioration in the fiscal and current account deficits, and the economy faced its worst crisis in 1991-92. It is extremely doubtful if, without a change in the strategy of development, growth would have picked up.

Between 1992-93 and 2000-01, GDP at factor cost grew annually by 6.20%. Between 2001-02 and 2012-13, it grew by 7.4% and the growth rate between 2013-14 and 2019-20 was 6.7%. The best performance was between 2005-06 and 2010-11 when GDP grew by 8.8%, showing clearly what the potential growth rate of India was. This is the highest growth experienced by India over a sustained period of five to six years. This was despite the fact that this period included the global crisis year of 2008-09. During this period, the investment rate reached a peak of 39.1% 2007-08. There was a corresponding increase in the savings rate. The current account deficit in the Balance of Payments (BOP) remained low at an average of 1.9%. However, the growth story suffered a setback after 2011-12. The growth rate fell to 4.5% in 2012-13 according to the 2004-05 series. The growth rate since then has seen ups and downs. The growth rate touched the 3.7% level in 2019-20.

> India has no choice but to grow fast, given the present level of per capita income

Raise the growth rate

Post COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war, there is a need to lay down a road map for India's future development. The first and foremost task is to raise the growth rate. Calculations show that if India achieves a 7% rate of growth continuously over the next two decades and more, it will make a substantial change to the level of the economy. India may almost touch the status of a developed economy. This in turn requires that India needs to raise the Gross Fixed Capital Formation rate from the current level of 28% of GDP to 33% of GDP. If, at the same time, India maintains the incremental capital output ratio at 4, which is a reflection of the efficiency with which we use capital, India can comfortably achieve a 7% rate of growth.

Raising the investment rate depends on a number of factors. A proper investment climate must be created and sustained. While public investment should also rise, the major component of investment is private investment, both corporate and non-corporate. It is this which depends on a stable financial and fiscal system. The importance of price stability in this context cannot be ignored.

Strengthen social safety nets

India needs to absorb the new technologies that have emerged, and that will emerge. Its development strategy must be multidimensional. India needs a strong export sector. It is a test of efficiency. At the same time, India needs a strong manufacturing sector. The organised segment of this sector must also increase. As output and income increase, India must also strengthen the system of social safety nets. Growth without equity is not sustainable.

The rapid pace of globalisation which India saw since the beginning of 1990s will slow down for a variety of reasons. Some countries which were champions of globalisation are making a retreat. Some countries feel that dependence on other countries for certain key inputs such as crude oil or chips may land them in difficulties at times. The Russia-Ukraine war has exposed this problem starkly. An open economy with some limitations is still the best route to follow.

India today is the fifth largest economy. This is an impressive achievement. However, in relation to per capita income, it is a different story. In 2020, India's rank was 142 out of 197 countries. This only shows the distance we have to travel. The external environment is not going to be conducive. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports a secular decline in growth in developed countries. Environmental considerations may also act as a damper on growth. Some adjustment on the composition of growth may become necessary. All the same, we have no choice but to grow fast, given the present level of per capita income.

A place for all refugees under India's welfare umbrella

This month marks yet another annual "16 Days of Activism" against gender-based violence, even as the world is faced with a global increase in reported domestic violence, child marriage, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. The coup in Myanmar, a Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine – that have all occurred in the last 18 months – have each underscored the fact that women bear a disproportionate burden in conflict, especially those forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in other countries. Economic stressors resulting from COVID-19 exacerbate the situation. Important markers in gender equality and the protection of civilians have been reversed in many countries.

The global theme for this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls", a much-needed call to action that all of us must work towards, in order to ensure that we reverse gender and protection deficits. Uniting to end violence against women and girls and empowering them to stand up for themselves and their communities, and supporting men to become agents of change, must remain the priority. The 16 Days of Activism run annually from November 25, which is International Day Against Violence Against Women, to December 10, which is International Human Rights Day.

Oscar Mundia

is Chief of Mission, UNHCR India and The Maldives

How India has fared

I anticipate invigorated actions by all of us to support the global peace and security agenda, especially for the marginalised such as refugees and other displaced persons. The thought that I am writing this in one of the largest economies in the world, which has championed programmes based on the rights and the development of women and girls, suggests that we can all learn from how far India has progressed in protecting her daughters since Independence 75 years ago.

Indian women received universal suffrage during India's independence in 1947. During the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, India was instrumental in ensuring that gender sensitive norms were respected by changing the language from 'all men are created equal' to 'all human beings are.... ' India has also ratified key international conventions to end discrimination against women which include the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

> This will ensure their effective inclusion in social protection systems, and also aligned to India's commitment to all women, their protection and empowerment, regardless of their legal status

Women in India continue to make progress in all areas of human endeavours, including politics, science, business, medicine, sports and agriculture. Women have overcome "the glass ceiling" in the armed forces and can also serve as commanders since 2020. Today, India has the largest number of women in the United Nations peacekeeping forces, thus showcasing the equal role that women can play in conflict-emerging countries and territories.

The central and State governments have launched new schemes, policies and programmes ranging from the welfare of the girl child to supporting aspiring female entrepreneurs, to empower both urban and rural women and promote gender equality. Women's protection has also been enhanced with far-reaching access to comprehensive services, regardless of legal status. Marginalised populations, such as refugees, have access to these protection and assistance services. The 'Nari Shakti for New India' campaign represents the aspirations of millions of women in India, who not only participate but lead development initiatives – a clear display that women are leading from the front.

The case of refugees

What does this all mean for refugee women in India? There are over 2,12,000 refugees in India including those supported by the Government of India, more than half of whom are women and girls. India ensures that refugees can access protection services that are on a par with their fellow Indian hosts. For those refugees registered directly by the Government such as those from Sri Lanka, they are entitled to Aadhaar cards and PAN cards to enable their economic and financial inclusion; they can have access to national welfare schemes and contribute effectively to the Indian economy. However, for those registered with the UNHCR, such as refugees from Afghanistan, Myanmar and other countries, while they have access to protection and limited assistance services, they do not possess government-issued documentation. Thus, they are unable to open bank accounts, benefit from all government welfare schemes, and are thus inadvertently left behind.

Including all refugees in existing national welfare and economic schemes would ensure their effective inclusion in social protection systems aligned to India's commitment to all women, their protection and empowerment, regardless of their legal status, and will ensure that no one is left behind.

A young refugee from Myanmar, whom I recently met, told me that she was the first lady in her entire community to enter a university in India. Like many other refugees who have benefited from national programmes, she is grateful to India and its people. Her determination and drive are catalysts to helping women overcome the hardest challenge. That is to influence and change attitudes, given that many barriers to women's empowerment are attributed to patriarchal and patrilineal traditions that are deeply entrenched in many societies.

The commitment to prioritise gender equal programming by the Government of India is commendable and its resulting economic and social potential for women will build societal resilience to handle future shocks. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently observed: "The progress of humanity is incomplete without the empowerment of women".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some hope from COP27

That there has a been a breakthrough of sorts at COP27, in terms of a Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund being set up to compensate the "particularly vulnerable" nations, is a victory, though a small one. One only hopes that when the norms for disbursal of the funds are finalised, developing countries, which require billions of dollars for mitigation and adaptation measures to fight climate change, but which lack the necessary resources, are not excluded from the list of nations that qualify for funds. It is disappointing that the developed nations have not acceded to the demand to include a clause to phase down all fossil fuels. Developing nations will have to keep up the pressure on rich nations to agree to phase down non-coal fossil fuels also.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

The L&D fund has created history of sorts as, rather unusually, the voice of the poorer developing nations has prevailed over the rich developing nations. Yet, going by the history of the various U.N. climate summits, there certainly is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip' as several grandiose pledges have been gallantly made, only to be broken later. For the L&D fund to become meaningful, the carbon footprints of nations have to be assessed and the responsibility for contributions should be made accordingly.

Nalini Vijayaraghavan,
Thiruvananthapuram

City redevelopment

The report, "Srinagar set for ₹980 cr. makeover" (November 20), made me wonder why George Town in Chennai is not developed as a smaller smart city. Here, there are narrow alleyways, crumbling buildings and worn-out facades with fading wall paint, but all a part of the forgotten history, culture and architecture of Chennai. There are examples here to highlight India's architectural heritage and culture.

A.J. Rangarajan,
Chennai

A political prism

The report, "If we ignore Tamil, it will be a great disservice to the nation, says Modi" (November 20), only reveals how Janus-faced the present government is . On one hand it is hell-bent on promoting the use of Hindi while on the other it makes tall claims about the language. Such 'appeasement' politics is in vain as many are aware of the real intentions.

Aanya Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Rights records

Arguably, there is merit in FIFA president Gianni Infantino hitting back at criticism of Qatar's human rights record and blasting the hypocrisy of western critics. After all, the West has always been a practitioner and an advocate of 'selective' human rights policies.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Threat to federalism in agricultural education

R. Ramakumar

is Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

The Kerala High Court has sought to substitute the role of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research with the University Grants Commission's regulations

The Kerala High Court recently annulled the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS). The court said that the appointment violated the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations of 2018. It listed two specific violations: (a) the search committee recommended a single name and not a panel; and (b) in the search committee, the State government included the Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) instead of a UGC nominee.

Given the history of agricultural education in India, the judgment is worrying. First, it weakens the principle of federalism by dismantling the role of State governments in the governance of agricultural universities. Second, it raises an existential threat for the facilitator and coordinator of agricultural education - the ICAR - by creating a false equivalence between the university system under the UGC and the agricultural university system under the State governments.

The constitutional position

The evolution of agricultural education has dovetailed the exclusive role bestowed by the Constitution to the States in managing agriculture. Agriculture was included as an occupied field in List II (State List) in the Seventh Schedule. Agricultural education was detached from other streams of higher education and attached to agriculture in List II itself. Entry 14 of List II reads: "Agriculture, including agricultural education and research…".

Indeed, education is in List III (Concurrent List). Entry 25 of List III reads: "Education, including technical education, medical education and universities, subject to the provisions of entries 63, 64, 65 and 66 of List I…". But there is no mention of agricultural education in Entry 25 of List III. If there was, agricultural education would not have found special mention in Entry 14 of List II. The legal implication is that agricultural education is not subject to Entries 63 to 66 of List I. Yet, the pivot of the KUFOS judgment is that Entry 66 of List I provides the basis for the applicability of UGC Regulations 2018, and the inapplicability of the First Statutes of the KUFOS Act, 2010, to the affairs of KUFOS. Entry 66 reads: "Co-ordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions".

The poor applicability of Entry 66 of List I is the reason why agricultural universities have been facilitated and coordinated by the ICAR, even when they were governed by State governments. In 2019, a teacher at the Kerala Agricultural University wrote to the UGC asking whether UGC Regulations apply to the university's faculty appointments. The UGC's official response read: "…Agricultural University does not come under the purview of UGC". It cited the UGC Regulations of 2010, Para 1.1.1, which says: "For teachers in the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Science, the norms/Regulations of Indian Council of Agricultural Research…shall apply".

The authoritative role of States

The ICAR has had a unique legal status. It was established in 1929 as a department of the Government of India (GoI) though it was also a society registered under the Societies Registration Act. In 1973, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) was set up under the Agriculture Ministry to facilitate agricultural research and education, coordinate between the Centre and States, and administrate the ICAR. The Secretary to the GoI in DARE was concurrently designated as the Director-General of ICAR. In 1983, the Supreme Court ruled that "ICAR is almost an inseparable adjunct of the GoI having an outward form of being a society; it could be styled as a society set up by the State and therefore, would be an instrumentality of the State".

With this status, the ICAR has facilitated and coordinated agricultural education for about 50 years, as a national expert body and without overstepping into the constitutional jurisdiction of the State governments. For instance, when the ICAR desired to bring about some uniformity in the administration of agricultural universities, it did not take recourse to a one-size-fits-all parliamentary legislation. Instead, it chose to send a 'Model Act for Agricultural Universities in India' to the State governments and let them decide whether to accept or reject it.

The KUFOS judgment threatens to disrupt this constitutional equilibrium. It has sought to substitute the role of the ICAR with the UGC's Regulations, which may be applicable solely to institutions listed in Entry 25 of List III. Despite the exclusion of agricultural education from Entry 25, the judgment has arbitrarily thrust the power of Entry 66 of List I on all agricultural/veterinary/fisheries universities. It also jeopardises the ICAR's efforts to ensure a minimum level of uniformity in agricultural education. Till 2019, 28% of agricultural/veterinary universities had adopted the ICAR's Model Act, and 48% had adopted some of its provisions. This Model Act stipulates three members in the search committee for Vice-Chancellors: the Director-General of ICAR; one nominee of the government; and one nominee of the Chancellor. But the KUFOS judgment makes the presence of the ICAR representative invalid. In short, all appointments of Vice-Chancellors of State agricultural, veterinary, fisheries universities made under the ICAR's Model Act are likely to be rendered untenable.

The ICAR needs to implead itself in the KUFOS case at the appeal stage. It must state that agricultural education is a part of Entry 14 of List II and cannot be subjected to the powers of Entry 66 of List I. What is at stake is not just the spirit of federalism but also the unique status conferred to agricultural education by the Constitution.

A crisis of civility in West Bengal

Derogatory language, taunts and jibes are regularly used in political discourse

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
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On November 14, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee issued an apology for the objectionable remark made by Fisheries Minister Akhil Giri about President Droupadi Murmu and said the party had cautioned him against making such comments.

Ms. Banerjee, who broke her silence at a press conference three days after the remark drew nationwide condemnation, dropped no hints of taking any action against the Minister, however. At the same press conference, the Trinamool Congress chairperson also referred to a comment made by the Leader of the Opposition and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Suvendu Adhikari, which was directed at Trinamool lawmaker Birbaha Hansda.

A new low

The political discourse in the State has touched a new low over the last few years with the regular and repeated use of derogatory language, taunts and jibes at political opponents. Often, the political slugfest takes the form of personal attacks, which go on to dominate the narrative.

There were several such verbal exchanges during the 2021 Assembly polls in the State, when the Trinamool Congress was pushing back against the BJP's attempt to "uproot" and "throw away" its government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Didi O Didi" jibe during his campaign drew criticism from many quarters.

After the Assembly polls too, when focus shifted away from the State, there have been regular verbal duels between BJP and Trinamool leaders. Ms. Banerjee has been at the receiving end of many personal attacks both before and after 2011, the year she was elected Chief Minister. That she decided, despite this, not to act against a Minister, whose remarks were described as misogynistic by leaders of her own party, sends the wrong message.

Politicians in the State – both from the Trinamool Congress and the BJP – use not only unparliamentary language, but also language that could incite violence. The 'Khela Hobe' (game is on) slogan of the Trinamool Congress for the 2021 Assembly polls also had a hidden element of violence. The BJP promised to not only defeat the Trinamool Congress, but to "uproot" it.

No political party in the recent past has acted against any party functionary for such uncivil remarks; in fact, such comments are normalised. Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal, who spoke of violence in the form of political innuendos, was even celebrated by the party for his skills, before he was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation earlier this year for his alleged involvement in the cross-border cattle smuggling scam. Former West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh also tried to grab eyeballs by regularly making remarks which incited violence against supporters of the Trinamool Congress. The Chief Minister has herself used unpalatable language to take on her opponents, including the Prime Minister. On August 29, while addressing a public rally, Ms. Banerjee said if she was not the Chief Minister, she would have asked her supporters to "snap the tongues of those trying to slander us".

These remarks, which are uttered intentionally to invite applause at public rallies, affect not the political discourse, but also the overall political atmosphere and the social fabric as they regularly lead to political violence, especially during elections.

The objectionable comment by Mr. Giri is not an isolated incident or an unintended slip of the tongue. The Minister had made similar remarks directed at the President in the last week of October. Those went unnoticed, but his comments in Nandigram on November 11 led to an outrage. Initially coming to Mr. Giri's defence, the Trinamool Congress leadership said that Mr. Adhikari had been calling him a "crow" for quite some time.

Trinamool's failure

Politicians are in a continuous dialogue with the masses, and any remark that borders on the offensive and has the potential to lead to violence must not only be condemned, but acted upon. It is really unfortunate that a public representative can get away with remarks that insult the country's highest constitutional functionary with nothing more than a warning. By not acting against Mr. Giri, the Trinamool Congress has lost an opportunity of bringing the political discourse on the right track. It has equally failed to warn everyone about how violent messaging is ruining the social fabric of West Bengal.

Over 73% crypto currency users lost money: research

As prices rose, smaller investors bought Bitcoin and the largest holders sold the cryptocurrency making big returns

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

After the U.S. and Turkey, India has the third highest number of registered downloads of crypto exchange apps, according to a working research paper* published in the Bank for International Settlements. The study analysed 200 crypto exchange apps across 95 countries between August 2015 and June 2022. As of June 2022, there were over 30 million crypto exchange app downloads in India (**Chart 1**). But in terms of downloads per capita, India features among the countries with the lowest number of downloads. This is because of its vast population and crypto awareness being mostly limited to urban pockets. Countries such as the U.S., Canada, Australia and the U.K. rank much higher in terms of per capita downloads. These app adoption figures were calculated by the authors using Sensor Tower, a proprietary app intelligence data provider.

India also features among those countries with the lowest average monthly app usage per 1 lakh people. In India, the number of daily active users in June 2022 was less than 150 per 1 lakh population. Active users are those who had at least one session on an app over a month. It is important to note that legal restrictions may have played a role in the low usage of such apps in India.

The authors' databases did not contain individual performances of crypto currency investments. However, using simulation, the authors arrived at an estimated number of investors who lost and gained money. By juxtaposing the number of users who downloaded the apps with the Bitcoin prices at the time of download, they found that 73% of users downloaded the app when the price of Bitcoin was over $20,000, as shown in **Chart 2**. The authors assumed that these users invested in Bitcoin on the same day that they downloaded the app and would have thus incurred a loss on their initial investment.

Only a few of these investors made large gains. A majority likely lost money (**Chart 3**). The authors assumed that each new user bought $100 of Bitcoin in the month of the first app download and in each subsequent month. Using this assumption, they calculated that 73%-81% of the users would have lost money. A median investor would have lost $431, corresponding to 48% of the total $900 invested, the paper concluded.

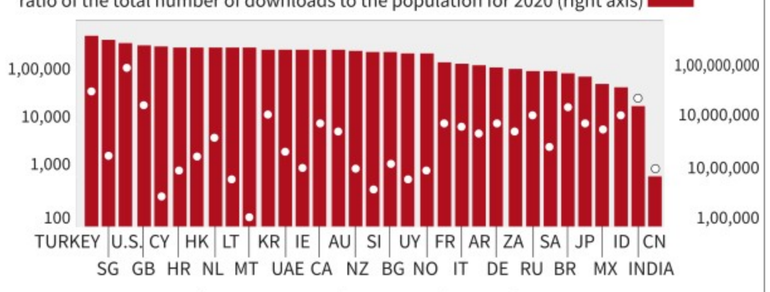
In fact, an analysis of blockchain data shows that as prices were rising and smaller users were buying Bitcoin, the largest holders were selling Bitcoin, making returns at the smaller users' expense. The authors argue that many retail investors are not fully informed of the risk.

According to the authors' calculations, the Bitcoin prices and user numbers moved in tandem. **Chart 4** shows that daily active users increased as Bitcoin price trends went up, with both the curves almost mimicking each other.

Thus, most new investors were attracted to higher prices and not because crypto is considered by some to be a "safe haven", the authors argue. **Chart 6** shows that nearly 40% of the investors were men under the age of 35 – commonly identified as risk takers. These users are more sensitive to price changes than other segments. The authors also found that Android users, who are relatively lower income individuals, were more sensitive to price than iOS users.

These points indicate that users gravitated towards Bitcoin due to rising prices and not due to their dislike for traditional banks.

Chart 1: Total downloads in the period Aug 2015–Jun 2022 period (left axis) ◯, ratio of the total number of downloads to the population for 2020 (right axis) ▬



AR = Argentina, BG = Bulgaria, BR = Brazil, CA = Canada, CN = China, CY = Cyprus, HR = Croatia, ID = Indonesia, IE = Ireland, IN = India, IT = Italy, JP = Japan, KR =Korea, LT = Lithuania, MT = Malta, SA = Saudi Arabia, SI = Slovenia, UY = Uruguay and ZA = South Africa

Chart 2: Bitcoin price at the time of first app download (in $1,000) (horizontal axis)
Percentage of users (vertical axis): ▬ Gaining money ▬ Losing money

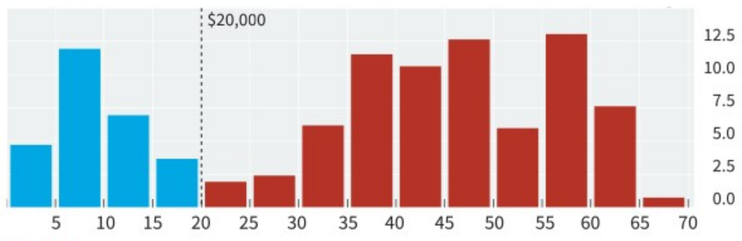


Chart 3: Gain or loss per user in $ in horizontal axis. Percentage of users by simulated gain or loss in $ in vertical axis. % of users: ▬ Gaining money ▬ Losing money

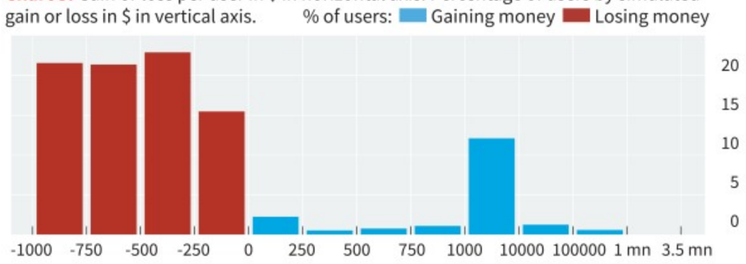


Chart 4: Monthly average of daily active users, bitcoin price. Calculated on a sample of more than 200 crypto exchange apps over 95 countries

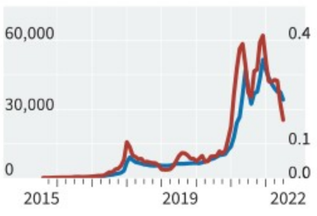


Table 5: Based on active users of 45 crypto exchanges android and iOS apps. Simple averages for the period Q1 2020–Q2 2022

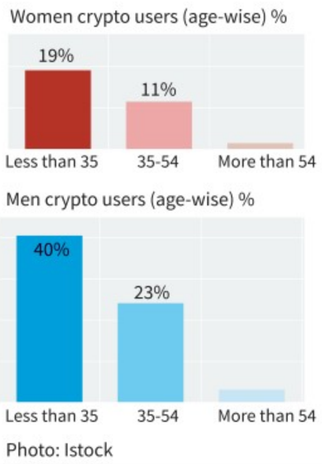


Photo: Istock

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 21, 1972

Libyan plot to assassinate Jordan King

Tel Aviv, Nov. 20: A Jordanian Army Colonel was arrested in Amman last week for alleged complicity in a Libyan plot to assassinate Jordan's King Hussein and his son, Crown Prince Hassan, the daily Jerusalem Post reported in its Monday morning edition.

The plot was uncovered when the Colonel tried to enlist the support of loyal Jordanian officers who subsequently informed on him, the newspaper said.

The Palestinian Director of an Amman Bank, who was a Libyan agent, has also been arrested, it added.

According to the paper's Arab affairs correspondent, the Colonel was contacted by Libyan sources during an Arab League conference in Cairo.

He was to have organised a military coup by assassinating the King and his son and taking over the country's communication systems.

The revolution was to have been supported by an airlift of Libyan troops and by Arab guerillas from Syria, the newspaper said.

UPI reports from Beirut: Security forces of Lebanon yesterday arrested Hisbam Lotfi Yussef, the Assistant Military Attache at the Jordanian Embassy, police sources said.

He was arrsted in a Beirut street as he gave a bag containing explosives to an unidentified person, the sources said.

A spokesman for the Jordanian Embassy said he knew nothing about the incident.

The Palestine news agency, said Yussef wanted the bombs exploded against unspecified targets in Beirut.

It said they were of the same kind which recently blasted a Beirut church, causing damage, but no casualties.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 21, 1922

The Church fund case

Trivandrum, Nov. 20: Mr. Alladi Krishnasamy Iyer, Vakil, Madras High Court, arrived here yesterday and commenced his argument for the respondents in the Syrian Church Trust Fund case before the full bench of the High Court to-day assisted by Mr. Subba Iyer, Additional Head Sirkar Vakil, and Law Member, Tranvancore Legislative Council.

From Page One

Mangaluru blast is 'act of terror', say police

The police allege that he has Islamic State leanings and is an associate of a prominent member of Al Hind, a Karnataka- and Tamil Nadu-based Islamic State-leaning terror module busted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2020. The NIA and the Karnataka Police have been looking for him at least from September 2022.

Shariq (24) has also come under suspicion in another case in which the Karnataka Police had busted a module in Shivamogga in September with the arrest of accused Maaz Muneer Ahmed (22) from Mangaluru and accused Syed Yasin (21) from Shivamogga. Another member of the group is suspected to be Shariq, who was on the run.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has expressed concern over the terror incident in the State and assured people of launching a crackdown. The case is likely to be transferred to the NIA soon.

With over 40% burns, Shariq is being treated in an intensive care unit in a hospital in Mangaluru and is reportedly not in a position to speak. The autorickshaw driver, Purushottam, has also suffered burns and is being treated.

On Saturday evening, there was a very low-key blast sound from the autorickshaw followed by fire and smoke, eyewitnesses said. "Preliminary investigations have pointed to low-intensity explosives such as phosphorus used in matchsticks or gunpowder. The bomb was crudely made in a very amateur way with two cells. Nuts and bolts were also found in the cooker," a senior police officer said.

The police suspect that the bomb accidentally went off on the way to its intended destination. "Shariq carried the IED-rigged cooker from Mysuru to Mangaluru, probably on a bus, and later boarded the autorickshaw on Saturday. The travel would have caused friction, which would have heated up the explosive material, probably triggering the explosion," a senior police officer said.

Using a forged Aadhaar card of a person who had lost his card in Hubballi, Shariq had rented a room on the outskirts of Mysuru, a month and a half ago. Police teams that raided the house on Sunday recovered explosive materials, similar to those used in the IED, the Karnataka Police said. The Mysuru Police have detained a resident of nearby T. Narsipura, with whom Shariq was regularly in touch.

The accused was using a SIM card, which turned out to have been procured in Coimbatore using the credentials of his Udhagamandalam-based associate Surendran, now detained by the Tamil Nadu Police. Investigations have now revealed that before shifting base to Mysuru, Shariq was in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, including Coimbatore. The police are now probing his links in the State, including his possible connection to Jameesha Mubin, who was killed in the blast of a car laden with explosives in front of Coimbatore's Kottai Eswaran temple on October 23.

COP-27 forms loss and damage fund

The announcement of the L&D fund was the highlight of the two-week process that saw little agreement among countries on other issues, such as a call to eliminate fossil fuel or delivering on climate finance to developing countries.

COP-27 president H.E. Sameh Shoukry said: "We heard the calls, and we responded. Today, here in Sharm El-Sheikh, we established the first-ever dedicated fund for loss and damage, a fund that has been so long in the making. It was only appropriate that this COP, the implementation COP in Africa, is where the fund is finally established." The agreement and pledges made on loss and damage aim to unlock greater ambitions for mitigation and adaptation.

During COP-27, financial pledges for loss and damage funding came from multiple countries, including Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, and New Zealand, joining Denmark and Scotland, which had made pledges previously. The expected monetary compensation from the L&D fund is estimated to be nearly $500 billion and rising by $200 billion annually, a statement from the office of the Presidency added. Simon Stiell, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, said, "We have determined a way forward on a decades-long conversation on funding for loss and damage – deliberating over how we address the impacts on communities whose lives and livelihoods have been ruined by the very worst impacts of climate change."

A summary document of all the major decisions taken, called the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, highlighted that a global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investments of at least $4-6 trillion a year. "Delivering such funding will require a swift and comprehensive transformation of the financial system and its structures and processes, engaging governments, central banks, commercial banks, institutional investors and other financial actors," a statement from the office of the Presidency noted. Prior to COP-27, India had set out for itself the task of having countries make headway on climate finance. This, however, saw limited success. "Serious concern was expressed that the goal of developed country Parties to mobilize jointly $100 billion per year by 2020 has not yet been met, with developed countries urged to meet the goal, and multilateral development banks and international financial institutions called on to mobilize climate finance," the UN secretariat noted. COP-27 saw the launch of a "mitigation work programme" which would start this year and continue until 2030, with at least two global dialogues held each year.

Mangaluru blast: prime suspect procured SIM in Coimbatore, say police

T.N. police detain his associate, strengthen security at border check-posts, railway stations; they are looking at the possibility of his links with the person who was killed in a car blast in Coimbatore

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The prime suspect in Saturday's blast in Mangaluru stayed in Coimbatore in the first week of September, police investigation has revealed. The 24-year-old suspect, Mohammed Shariq, was also one of the two people injured in the blast that occurred in a moving autorickshaw.

Crucial evidence: A cooker fitted with detonator, wires and batteries found at the scene of explosion in Mangaluru. PTI

While staying in a dormitory in Coimbatore, Shariq used his associate Surendran's Aadhaar card credentials to obtain a SIM card. Though there is no prior record of Shariq coming to the adverse notice of the police, investigators are looking at the possibility of his links with Jameesha Mubin, who was killed in a car blast in Coimbatore last month, or with other suspected Islamic State operatives and sympathisers in the State.

The police apprehended Surendran of Udhagamandalam, who is believed to have admitted to having known Shariq and giving him his Aadhaar card. However, Surendran told the police he had no knowledge about the Mangaluru blast and claimed that Shariq left Coimbatore without informing him.

Confirming that Shariq had stayed in Coimbatore in the first week of September, Tamil Nadu Director-General of Police (DGP) C. Sylendra Babu told *The Hindu* on Sunday that special teams were enquiring about details of his associates and contacts as he was not previously on the radar of the State police.

"It is true that he obtained the SIM card with Surendran's Aadhaar card. We are analysing the call details and also the locations visited by the suspect in recent months. There is no evidence to link Shariq with Mubin as of now, though it is possible that they could be acting on the instructions of the same handler," he said.

Going by the information available, it appeared that Shariq was trained in the making of improvised explosive devices that could be triggered by timer devices. A burnt pressure cooker and batteries were found at the scene of the blast.

The DGP said that investigators would look into the similarities between the nature of explosives used in the Mangaluru blast and in the Coimbatore car explosion which took place on October 23.

Vigil intensified

The DGP said that senior police officers across Tamil Nadu have been alerted to enhance manpower at check-posts along the State borders. While vehicle checks have been intensified at vulnerable locations, the police will also thoroughly verify abandoned vehicles like cars, vans, motorcycles and autorickshaws.

The Government Railway Police were told to coordinate with the Railway Protection Force and step-up surveillance at major railway stations as well.

'Suspect got online consignment during his stay in Kerala'

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Two of his associates were arrested in connection with the seizure of materials spreading IS ideology

Investigation into the antecedents of Mohammed Shariq, the prime suspect in Saturday's Mangaluru autorickshaw blast, has revealed that he received an online consignment through Amazon while staying with an associate at Aluva in Kerala in the second week of September.

Sources in the intelligence agencies confirmed the same to *The Hindu*. Investigators who analysed his call records found certain details that confirmed the order and delivery through the e-commerce portal. Efforts were on to access the content of the consignment, account details and the delivery address, the sources said.

After staying in a dormitory in Coimbatore, Mr. Shariq visited Madurai and Nagercoil before going to Aluva. Investigators suspect that he kept moving to various places to evade arrest by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) since two of his associates, Maaz and Yasin, were arrested by the Mangaluru police in connection with the seizure of materials propagating the Islamic State's (IS) ideology. Special teams of the Coimbatore police have rushed to Madurai and Nagercoil to check Shariq's contacts there, the sources said.

The Mangaluru case originated from a stabbing incident reported in Dodabetta, where a native of Rajasthan was assaulted by a man, Shaifullah. It was this accused person who, during interrogation, revealed the names of Shariq and two others, saying that they were involved in a systematic indoctrination of the IS ideology, the sources said.

It came to light during further investigation that Shariq was a member of the "Base Movement" module, which ardently followed the IS ideology. Some youth in Madurai, Tirunelveli and Nagercoil had come to the notice of the police for their involvement with the movement in recent years. The activities of "Base Movement" activists had also come to the notice of police in Shivamogga, Hubbali and Mangaluru in Karnataka, the sources added.

With V-P in Doha, calls grow for release of 8 ex-Navy men

Suhasini Haidar
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar arrived in Doha on Sunday to represent India at the inauguration of the FIFA World Cup, even as family members of eight retired Indian naval officers imprisoned in Qatar have stepped up calls for the government to intervene in their release.

The former officers, who have been in custody for more than 80 days, have had some contact with their families and a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official travelled to Doha for consular access in October, but there is no word on their release at present.

Neither the MEA nor the Vice-President's office commented on whether the issue will be raised by Mr. Dhankhar during the visit.

"Looking forward to the opening ceremony of the mega sporting event FIFA World Cup and interactions with the Indian community," the Vice-President's office said in a tweet after his arrival in Doha.

"The Vice-President's visit would be an opportunity to join a close and friendly country Qatar as it hosts a major sporting event and also to acknowledge the role played and support extended by Indians in this World Cup," the MEA said in a statement prior to the Vice-President's departure.

The government has thus far not commented on the charges for which the eight men, including seven retired officers, were detained. The men worked for a Qatari company, 'Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services', and were involved in training the Qatari Navy and helping in maintenance and logistics.

Warm welcome: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar greeted by Qatar Minister of State Sheikh Fahad Bin Faisal al-Thani. TWITTER

India's image

Dahra Global's managing director Commander Purnendu Tiwari (retd.) has been based in Qatar for several years and in 2019 received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman from former President Ram Nath Kovind for his work in "enhancing India's image abroad" and "his contribution towards capacity building for the Qatar Emiri Naval Forces, thereby promoting India-Qatar bilateral cooperation", the Indian Embassy in Qatar's social media pages said at the time.

Reacting on Twitter on Sunday, Meetu Bhargava, who has been identified as a relative of Commander Tiwari said that the "physical and mental health" of the personnel detained in "illegal solitary cell confinement" in Doha is "deteriorating fast". "It is high time that they all are immediately repatriated to India," Dr. Bhargava added.

According to sources, it is unclear if there would be a "structured meeting" between Mr. Dhankhar and the Qatari leadership during his two-day visit, stressing that the issue of the detained Indians was being pursued diplomatically already.

On Monday, Mr. Dhankhar is due to address the Indian community in Doha before returning to Delhi, the MEA said. At a press briefing on November 10, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said that the government is "following this case very closely".

"Our Embassy in Doha is in regular touch with the local authorities... there was one round of consular access there and [the Embassy is] also trying to get a visit by family members of the detained Indian nationals there." However, he declined to "speculate" on the legal issues involved, or whether the "individual consular issues" would impact India and Qatar relations.

Reacting to the reports, former Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash had said on Twitter that the solitary confinement of the former officers was "inappropriate" for a friendly neighbouring country, and the officers should have been repatriated if necessary.

"Perhaps time to review Indian Navy-Qatari Navy relations and joint naval exercise "Zair-al-Bahr," Mr. Prakash added.

Lawyers' protests unite CJI, Rijiju on saving sanctity of Collegium rulings

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Lawyers' protests over the reported transfer of two Gujarat and Telangana High Courts' judges may have brought the judiciary and the government closer on the need to protect the sanctity of Supreme Court Collegium decisions.

Saturday saw Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, an ardent critic of the Collegium system, worry about the outcome if such protests "recur" against future Collegium decisions too.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud spoke of the choice between taking "tough decisions" or making it easy for oneself by saying "I'll have a nice time until the Constitution tells me to retire".

Mr. Rijiju has cautioned lawyers against the risk of getting "too loud" on their demands. The Law Minister referred to "norms practised for a long time" and "well-established conventions".

On the same page: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju (left) and Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud. PTI

"I heard some lawyers want to meet the Chief Justice of India on some transfer issue... In isolation, it may be one of the issues... but if this becomes a recurring instance for every decision taken by the Collegium or which is supported by the government, then where will it lead to... then the whole dimension will change," Mr. Rijiju said at a function to felicitate the Chief Justice.

Only a few days ago, the Law Minister was reported to have said at a media conclave that "when we have a system that is not transparent, it reflects the thoughts of the lawyers and judges".

But, on Saturday, the Minister admitted that "maybe I failed to convey what should be conveyed".

Mr. Rijiju's statements about the transfers and the ensuing protests on Saturday came before even the Chandrachud Collegium had published its resolution on the proposed transfers on the Supreme Court website.

It is also not known whether the Chandrachud Collegium has forwarded the reported recommendations of the transfers to the Union government.

On Saturday, the CJI and the Law Minister neither confirmed nor denied the reported transfer recommendations.

In his turn, the CJI had focussed on the disruptive aspect of the lawyers' protests.

"When lawyers strike, who suffers? Consumers of justice for whom we exist suffer... not judges, not the lawyers. Possibly, the lawyers because after a few days their fees start drying up".

'India has given $15 bn as soft loans to neighbours'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The volume of India's soft loans to neighbouring countries has increased from about $3 billion to almost $15 billion in the last eight years, former foreign secretary and G-20 chief coordinator Harsh Vardhan Shringla said.

Speaking at the Purvottar Swabhiman Utsav organised by the Army in Guwahati on Sunday, Mr. Shringla said India has significantly ungraded investment in terms of outreach to the neighbours and beyond to the east of the country.

Connectivity boost

"One important statistic in this regard is that our lines of credit extended to our immediate neighbourhood has increased from $3 billion in 2014 to close to $15 billion today. We are providing soft loans to our neighbours to develop infrastructure for improved connectivity with us," Mr. Shringla said.

APPEAL

I am Nithesh aged 11 years, suffering from Relapsed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and require Chemotherapy at CENTRE FOR BLOOD DISORDERS. The total expenditure is Rs. 3,00,000/-. Please donate and support me as my family is extremely poor and cannot afford this huge cost. I need your blessings. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027.** E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com. Website: **www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.**

NITHESH

Don't waste your votes on Congress in Gujarat: Modi

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asked voters in Gujarat not to "waste their vote on the Congress" as the party lacked any road map for the development of the State. Instead, they should choose the BJP to continue the State's development journey.

Mr. Modi addressed four rallies in the Saurashtra region on Sunday, the second day of his election campaign. He first offered prayers at the Somnath temple.

"You cannot expect a Congress leader to take you on the path of development. Ask any Congress leader what is the road map for development and they don't have any plan," he said in Amreli, a district where the BJP drew a blank in the previous Assembly polls in 2017.

He said the people of Amreli had elected Congress candidates in the previous election with "very high hopes". "Now tell me, what did they do for you during these five years? Do you remember at least one work done by them? Then why are you wasting your votes on them? To strengthen Amreli, I urge you to choose lotus this time," Mr. Modi said.

He addressed rallies in Veraval, Amreli, Dhoraji and Botad in Saurashtra, which go to the polls in the first phase of the election on December 1. He spoke about various welfare schemes the BJP government in the State and the Centre had launched, including annual cash transfers to farmers and other weaker sections.

In Botad, he said the BJP was the only party that had forced other political parties to talk about development instead of caste-based vote bank politics.

In Dhoraji, Mr. Modi flagged the presence of social activist and leader of the Narmada Bachao Andolan, Medha Patkar, in the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra.

"Why are such people, who opposed the Narmada project and wanted to deprive the people of Saurashtra from getting Narmada water, are given place in the Yatra?" he asked, without mentioning either Ms. Patkar or Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the yatra.

"The Narmada project is the only project to quench the thirst of the arid region of Kutch and Saurashtra. You must have seen yesterday how a Congress leader was doing *padayatra* with a woman who was an anti-Narmada activist. She and others stalled the project for three decades by creating legal hurdles," he said.

AAP's promise of 'Delhi model' piques curiosity, stokes debate in BJP's stronghold of Gujarat

Though some voters find the 'guarantees' appealing, they are sceptical about AAP's winning chances; the others view the promises with suspicion as they claim that there is a possibility of increase in tax rates to fund the social welfare schemes

SPECIAL

Sobhana K. Nair
RAJKOT/SURAT

High-pitched battle: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow, campaigning for his party in Rajkot for the upcoming Gujarat Assembly election, on November 7. PTI

Can the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) entice Gujarat, known for its mercantile culture, with the promise to replicate its "Delhi model" of administration and a slew of other incentives? The question bothers both its rivals, the Congress and the BJP, ahead of the Assembly election.

The AAP's approach has broadly generated two kinds of responses among voters – one set finds these "guarantees" appealing, but is not sure whether the AAP will be able to win to deliver them; the second section is viewing the promises with suspicion as they fear taxes will be increased to fund the social welfare schemes.

AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has promised 300 units of electricity free, arguing that the Chief Minister himself gets 5,000 units of electricity free a month. He promised better government schools, access to water, better healthcare, a monthly allowance of ₹1,000 to all women above the age of 18, if they are willing to accept it, and ₹3,000 as unemployment allowance. The list includes slashing the rate of LPG cylinders by at least ₹500 and farm loan waivers of up to ₹3 lakh. Mr. Kejriwal contends that "people's money should go to the people and not in the Swiss bank".

Funds for guarantees

Dhawal Devipujak, a scrap dealer from Gandhinagar, falls in the very vote bank the AAP is targeting. The 25-year-old has some basic questions. "How exactly does he plan to fund all that he is promising? Does he print currency at home? They will increase taxes on everything to fulfil these promises. So, ultimately, the burden will be transferred to us," he said. This is an argument that is repeated frequently by voters across constituencies.

Morji Samji Kothia, who runs a restaurant opposite the Kodaldham temple, a place of pilgrimage for the Leuva Patel community, is another such sceptic. The promise of free electricity is misleading, he said. "In Gujarat, the cost per unit [of electricity] is ₹5.50 while in Delhi, it is ₹10. I have heard that beyond the promised free units, people get exponential bills."

Class divide

More often than not, the AAP is finding support in the economically distressed classes. Raju Tajtin Keshani, a Khoja Muslim, runs a *nashta* (snack) stall at the Morbi market. The 25-year-old Mr. Keshani has never voted in his life though this time, he is enthusiastically looking forward to polling day. He is eager to validate news stories and the WhatsApp messages that he has read on the "Delhi model".

"Why shouldn't we also have better schools and hospitals," he asks.

There is a far smaller population among the affluent and upper middle class who equally find the AAP's promises attractive.

Subash Patel, who owns a wholesale textile shop at Surat, sees the AAP's "Delhi model" as functional and viable. "We have been fooled by the BJP and the Congress for far too long," he said. But at the same time, he is not confident that the Aam Aadmi Party can dismantle the BJP, which has been at the helm in the State for 27 years.

Whether the AAP can ultimately tilt the scales in its favour or not is uncertain, but the party has successfully triggered a debate.

Harshad Wagehla, who runs a photo studio at Ghoghadar village near Junagadh, waves off the AAP's promises saying, "Gujarat *mein* free *ka kuch nahi chahiye* (we don't need anything for free)."

His neighbouring grocery shopkeeper Shailesh Patel steps in to say, "Didn't the BJP promise ₹15 lakh in our accounts? And what about the ₹6,000 per annum [PM Kisan Samman Nidhi] that the Centre pays?"

(*With inputs from Abhinay Deshpande*)

> How exactly does he plan to fund all that he is promising? Does he print currency at home?
> **DHAWAL DEVIPUJAK**
> Gandhinagar resident

BJP suspends 7 leaders for contesting as Independents

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat on Sunday suspended seven party leaders, including two former MLAs, for filing nominations as Independent candidates for the Assembly election after they were denied ticket.

The seven candidates are contesting from the seats that will go to the polls in the first phase of the Gujarat election scheduled to be held on December 1.

The party suspended former MLAs Arvind Ladani, who had won from the Keshod constituency in 2012, and Harshad Vasava from the Scheduled Tribe reserved seat of Nandod, after they filed their nominations as Independents from these seats.

The BJP has fielded Darshana Deshmukh from Nandod and Devabhai Malam from Keshod. It also suspended Chhatarsinh Gunjariya, a district panchayat member from Surendranagar, after he filed his nomination as an Independent in Dhrangadhra.

The other suspended leaders are Ketan Patel, Bharat Chavda, Uday Shah and Karan Baraiya, who filed their nominations as Independents from Pardi, Rajkot, Veraval and Rajula seats, respectively. The BJP, in a release, said, "These leaders have filed their nominations as Independent candidates against the candidates declared by the party. They are being suspended on the direction of the State BJP president C.R. Paatil."

Hardik hails EWS quota, says it will benefit Patels

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

The Centre's decision of 10% EWS reservation without disturbing the existing quota resolved many issues of the Patels in Gujarat and the community will ensure the BJP's massive victory in the upcoming Assembly polls, party leader Hardik Patel said.

The spearhead of the 2015 Patidar quota stir said the agitation had directly impacted nearly 20 Assembly segments in the 2017 Gujarat election. He had supported the Congress during the 2017 polls.

The Centre, in January 2019, implemented the 10% reservation for the economically weaker sections (EWS) from the general category by amending the Constitution.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court in a 3:2 majority decision upheld the 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in admissions and government jobs that excluded the poor among the SCs, STs, and OBCs.

"Patidars are united and have decided to back Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the 2017 elections, the issue was different. The 10% EWS quota has extended reservation benefits for the poor and the deprived from other sections while including the Patels of Gujarat. This time, the Patels will ensure that BJP gets a massive majority," Mr. Patel said. He hailed Prime Minister Modi's leadership, and termed his decision on the EWS quota "historic". It will benefit the poor from more than 50 communities, he said.

'We must welcome the changing contours of reservation system'

Supreme Court's judgment in the EWS quota case upholds Parliament's competency to amend the Constitution and the validity of economic criterion for reservation, says former Law Minister

INTERVIEW

Ravi Shankar Prasad

Abhinay Lakshman

With the Supreme Court's judgment upholding the 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), former Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad says it upholds the competency of Parliament to change the Constitution, the importance of not second-guessing legislative will, the validity of an economic criterion for reservation, and that the "alleged disadvantages of one cannot be a ground to deny any advantage to other disadvantaged communities". Excerpts:

While SCs, STs, OBCs see their backwardness as associated with caste identity, what is the EWS backwardness a result of?

As far as OBC is concerned, remember one thing very clearly, OBCs did not feel the same level of deprivation as the SCs felt. Therefore, Constitution makers rightly took into account the whole diversity of India's social empowering movement. Now, if, for inclusive development, you also seek to take into account the economic deprivations of many of these communities, poor, marginalised – that is what has been done.

Therefore, the whole comparison is misplaced, whosoever they do it. And can they by that logic prevent Parliament from enacting a law on a particular subject? Parliament represents the collective will of the people. No one else brought about this, the Narendra Modi government brought about this. They felt the need for it and everyone supported it [in Parliament, when the Constitutional Amendment was tabled].

What did the government then see as the discrimination or underlying social cause for the economic backwardness of this class that is being created?

Discrimination is one aspect of it. As for special provisions, [the Constitution] says, nothing in this Article shall prevent the state from making a special provision for the advancement of any socially educationally backward class of citizens or for SCs and STs. Therefore, discrimination is not *per se* mentioned here. What is mentioned is, the plea for equality of opportunity is there. The plea for non-discrimination against women, religions, is there, but there will have to be special provisions for STs and SCs and socio-economic and educationally backward classes. That [the comparison] would be unfortunate as SC is different, ST is different, OBC is different.

With the passage of time, don't we see evolving standards for benchmarking reservation so that it doesn't become a monopoly of the few? Therefore, income, social status, landed property – all these things have been benchmarked, for OBCs in particular, and that is a good thing. Therefore, let it evolve.

Another aspect has been that, by nature of the exclusion in the EWS quota, it is essentially a forward-caste reservation. How do you respond to this argument?

I would say it is an argument for the sake of argument without any logic or foundation. When the amendment itself says economically weaker section, which will be defined by the state depending upon the income and other standards, then how? Therefore, this whole argument is completely misplaced.

So where to from here? Is the government expecting that the need for caste-based reservation will reduce slowly, now that the economic criterion has been opened up?

Today also, SC and ST boys do well in merit or not? I can tell you like FICCI, there is an organisation called DICCI – Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce. And what is the thing there – only Dalit entrepreneurs having a turnover of ₹50 crore or plus will be a member. As the former Information Technology Minister, I know for sure how many boys and girls from the so-called reserved category, OBC in particular, in case of SC also, are doing so well as start-ups. They are giving jobs. Technology, entrepreneurship, merit, all these three are surely changing the whole contours of reservation. And we must welcome that. Therefore, let this pace of evolution of India's enterprise, entrepreneurship and creativity be allowed to continue unhindered without at all controlling or removing the reservations existing for these groups, which is a completely valid Constitutional requirement.

BJP should stop lying about Cong., says Ramesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shutting down the debate on V.D. Savarkar started by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said the party will stop speaking truths about BJP and RSS leaders the day they stop lying about its leaders.

Addressing a press meet in Maharashtra, Mr. Ramesh said, "The issue is now over. I have been giving statements for the past three days. The day the BJP and RSS stop saying lies about our leaders, we will also stop speaking the truth about their leaders."

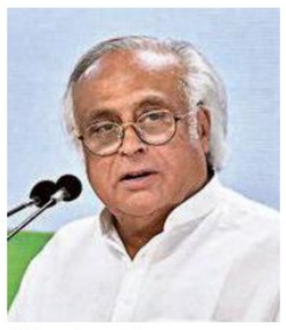
The Bharat Jodo Yatra will enter Madhya Pradesh on November 23 after a two-day break. During the break, Mr. Gandhi will campaign for the party in Gujarat.

Mr. Gandhi's comment on right-wing ideologue Savarkar that he took pension from the British and called himself a "servant" of the British triggered a massive political controversy. His comments were publicly repudiated by Congress ally Shiv Sena (Uddhav faction) with former Maharashtra Chief Minister Udhav Thackeray and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut both condemning Mr. Gandhi's comments.

Answering a series of questions on the electoral benefits of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Mr. Ramesh said the 3,500-km foot march by the party was a "revolutionary moment" and not just an event oriented for electoral success.

Buoyed by Bharat Jodo, Congress mulls yatra from west to east

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Jairam Ramesh

Encouraged by the response of the Bharat Jodo Yatra so far, the Congress is exploring the idea of a similar *yatra* from west to east next year.

Though the plans are still at a discussion stage, if the *yatra* takes place, it will be in hybrid mode where the *yatra* will be on foot as well as by vehicles to cover difficult geographical terrain. "I can't give you a guarantee but since this yatra is from south to north, there could be one from western India to eastern India. There is a possibility," Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh told presspersons in Maharashtra last Friday.

Connect with people

"The kind of response and support we have got from the people and the way it has changed the perception about the Congress, I think we have to continue the yatra. It [yatra] is a way for the party organisation to connect with the people," he added.

Mr. Ramesh quoted former party chief Rahul Gandhi as saying how the Opposition is not given its space in Parliament to raise issues such as inflation, unemployment or the border face-off with China.

"The Prime Minister hardly comes to Parliament, Bills are passed without much scrutiny. So, what is the way to raise people's issues. He [Mr. Gandhi] said the yatra is one such mechanism," the Congress communication general secretary said.

Along with the main Bharat Jodo Yatra, the party also started yatras in States that are not covered by the main yatra route.

Right now, three State-specific yatras are on in Assam, Odisha and Tripura.

Many in the Congress argue that such yatras not only give the party an opportunity to revitalise its organisational structure but it also allows the party to break the "stereotypes" set by the BJP as well as the narrative set by a section of the mainstream media.

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Tender No. - TSTS/CS/P&E-HEAL/2020

TSTS on behalf of the Prohibition & Excise Department, Telangana issues OCB tender call notice inviting proposals from reputed Agencies / Firms for Identification of Agency for Printing and Supply of HIGH SECURITY HOLOGRAPHIC EXCISE ADHESIVE LABEL (HEAL).

Pre-bid meeting: 25.11.2022@ 11:30 AM in Conference Hall, O/o Director -P&E, Govt of Telangana, Hyderabad

For details please visit **www.tsts.telangana.gov.in, https://tender.telangana.gov.in**

DIPR R.O. No. : 953-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23

Sd/-
Managing Director

INBRIEF

Truck hits at least 30 vehicles on slope of Pune bridge

At least 30 vehicles were damaged after being hit by a truck on the downward slope of a bridge on the Mumbai-Bengaluru highway late on Sunday evening. A few people were injured, a police official said. The accident occurred on the Navale bridge and it happened either due to suspected brake failure of the truck or its driver losing control, he said. As per the information received so far, six persons have suffered injuries in the incident and they are being treated at two hospitals, the official said. There are several vehicles in damaged condition at the site, with the fire brigade and police personnel as well as passers-by engaged in rescue efforts, an eyewitness said. PTI

FMM condemns Delhi murder, calls for justice

The Federation of Maharashtra Muslims (FMM), an umbrella body of outfits from the community, on Sunday condemned the killing of 27-year-old Shraddha Walkar allegedly by her live-in partner Aaftab Poonawala. Poonawala was recently arrested after a police probe found he had killed Walkar in the Mehrauli area of Delhi on May 18 and had disposed of her body parts over several weeks after storing them in a fridge. FMM functionary Shaikh Mujeeb sought justice for the victim and strictest punishment for the accused, adding society must take issues of domestic violence seriously. PTI

Nine prisoners escape from Mon district jail in Nagaland

The Nagaland police have launched a hunt to nab nine prisoners, including two convicts, who escaped from the Mon district jail early on Sunday morning. Officials said the prisoners "somehow got hold" of the cell keys and fled after climbing high walls. "A case has been registered at the Mon police station. A lookout notice has also been issued and other agencies have been alerted to check all exit routes," a senior police officer said. The possibility of the prisoners hiking the hills to sneak into Myanmar has not been ruled out. The Mon district borders Myanmar besides Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Man barks at official over incorrect name on ration card

A man in West Bengal's Bankura district barked like a dog before a government official to get his name corrected on his ration card. Srikanti Kumar Dutta has been running around government offices for correction in his name on the ration card. After Mr. Dutta's attempt to correct his name from 'Srikanti Kumar Kutta' to 'Srikanti Kumar Dutta' fell on deaf ears, he tried yelping like a dog before a government officer. A video of the unique protest has gone viral on social media, where Mr. Dutta can be seen holding a piece of paper and barking at a government official who is seated inside a vehicle. The protests have, however, yielded results and the name has been corrected.

India hails compensation fund approved at UN summit

The developed nations, particularly the United States, have been opposing this new fund over fears that it will hold them legally liable for massive damage caused by climate change

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

> Developing countries need independence in their choice of energy mix, and in achieving the sustainable development goals
> **BHUPENDER YADAV**
> Union Environment Minister

India on Sunday described as historic the UN climate summit in Egypt for securing an agreement on establishing a fund to address the loss and damage caused due to climate change-induced disasters, saying "the world has waited far too long for this". The success of the talks hinged on the progress on this track.

Making an intervention in the closing plenary of COP-27, the Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said the world should not burden farmers with mitigation (reducing emissions of greenhouse gases) responsibilities. India has kept mitigation in agriculture out of its NDCs (national plans to achieve Paris Agreement goals of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius), he said.

The developed nations, particularly the U.S., have been opposing this new fund over fears that it would hold them legally liable for massive damages caused by climate change.

On the establishment of a four-year work programme on climate action in agriculture and food security at COP-27, Mr. Yadav said agriculture, the mainstay of livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers, would be hard hit due to climate change.

Opposing the efforts to extend the scope of mitigation to agriculture at COP-27, India had, on Thursday, said that rich nations did not want to reduce emissions by changing their lifestyles and were "searching for cheaper solutions abroad".

Agriculture accounts for around 17% of India's GDP and is the primary source of livelihood for about 58% of its population.

Mr. Yadav welcomed the inclusion of "transition to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production in our efforts to address climate change" in the cover decision of the deal struck in Sharm El-Sheikh.

On October 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched 'Mission LiFE' in the presence of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. LiFE stands for "Lifestyle for Environment", a pro-people and pro-planet effort that seeks to shift the world from mindless and wasteful consumption to mindful and deliberate utilisation of natural resources.

On the establishment of a work programme on just transition, Mr. Yadav said that for most developing countries, just transition could not be equated with decarbonisation, but with low-carbon development.

"Developing countries need independence in their choice of energy mix, and in achieving the SDGs (sustainable development goals). Developed countries taking the lead in climate action are a very important aspect of the global transition," he said.

Just transition means a shift to low-carbon development strategy over a time scale that ensures food and energy security leaving no one behind in the process.

CII bats for lower income tax rates, GST cut for white goods

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It underlines need to raise households' disposable spending power to revive consumption

Flagging the need to revive consumption demand in the economy, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has urged the government to reduce personal income tax rates in the Union Budget, 2023-24 to increase households' spending power, slash the 28% GST rate on some consumer durables, and engender job creation in the hinterland.

Seeking a status quo on corporate tax rates, the CII has said revving up private investments is critical as public capital spending is not enough to "energise growth" in the economy, even as it pitched for raising capital spending to 3.4% of the GDP next year from 2.9% this year.

Ahead of the commencement of formal Budget consultations on Monday under the stewardship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the industry body has also pleaded with the government to ensure no arrests or detention takes place in civil cases "unless criminalisation in business has been proved beyond doubt".

To push exports which recorded their first decline in 20 months in October, the CII has emphasised the need to rationalise import duties with "a graded roadmap" to shift their slabs "to a competitive level". It has also asked the inclusion of all export products, including those from export-oriented units and special economic zones under the export duty remission scheme, RoDTEP.

The industry body has also asked for the GST Appellate Tribunal and National Authority of Advance Ruling to be set up "on priority as taxpayers are facing problems in filing appeals with High courts, especially for rejection of refunds".

States check, verify data of PM Kisan beneficiaries: Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a response to *The Hindu* report published on Sunday that the number of farmers who received the 11th instalment of funds from the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) has fallen by 67%, the Union Agriculture Ministry said it is an erroneous reflection on the functioning of the PM Kisan scheme, and said the responsibility of maintaining the data of beneficiaries remained with the States.

"The scheme extensively uses digital technologies to verify eligibility of farmers. States/ U.T. upload the data of eligible farmers after verification of the farmers, in terms of eligibility and exclusion criterion prescribed under the scheme. The data of farmers so uploaded by States goes through several validations, through the portals of UIDAI, PFMS, Income Tax Portal and NPCI," the Ministry said.

It, however, did not mention why only three crore farmers have received all 11 instalments.

It claimed that for each instalment, the benefits are processed only after Request for Fund Transfer (RFT) is signed by the States/ U.T.

"Accordingly, the number of eligible farmers who have received the benefits has increased over time compared to the 1st instalment given in December 2018-March 2019. Thus, while the number of farmers who were given first instalment was 3.87 crore, it rose to six crore in the second instalment; 7.65 crore in the third instalment; 8.20 crore in the fourth instalment; 9.26 crore in the fifth instalment; 9.71 crore in the sixth instalment; 9.84 crore in the seventh instalment; 9.97 crore in the eighth instalment; 10..34 crore in the ninth instalment; 10.41 crore in the tenth instalment and 10.45 crore in the eleventh instalment," the Ministry said.

IFFI revives its glory with return to fully physical format after COVID-19

Press Trust of India
PANAJI

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened here on Sunday amid much fanfare as it returned to a fully physical format after going hybrid for the last two editions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 53rd IFFI, conducted jointly by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), kicked off with a grand ceremony at the jam-packed Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Indoor Stadium.

Keeping with the spirit of the *Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav* celebrations, the theme of the opening ceremony was "Evolution of Indian Cinema in the last 100 years".

The event was attended by Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Anurag Thakur, the Union Minister of State (MoS) for I&B, L. Murugan, Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant as well as many Indian and international film personalities.

Great honour: Carlos Saura's daughter, Anna, accepts the award on behalf of the filmmaker at the opening ceremony of the IFFI. PIB

At the ceremony, hosted by Aparshakti Khurrana, actors Manoj Bajpayee, Suniel Shetty, Ajay Devgn, Paresh Rawal and veteran writer V. Vijayendra Prasad were felicitated with special honour, while legendary Spanish filmmaker Carlos Saura was given the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Saura, known for directing classics *Mama-Cumple Cien Anos* and *Carmen*, gave the ceremony a miss due to health reasons and his daughter Anna Saura accepted the award on his behalf.

During the event, the I&B minister declared megastar Chiranjeevi the Film Personality of the Year. The Telugu film veteran was last seen in the blockbuster hit *Godfather*.

Mr. Murugan said that it is the festival's comeback to its vibrant avatar after the pandemic.

Government set to publish framework for e-commerce reviews

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government will publish next week frameworks to counter fake reviews and unverified star ratings on e-commerce websites, hotel and travel booking platforms, according to the Consumer Affairs Secretary, Rohit Kumar Singh.

Since e-commerce involves a virtual shopping experience without any opportunity to physically view the product, the consumers heavily rely on reviews posted on platforms to see opinion of the users who have already purchased the goods.

Fake reviews mislead the consumers into buying online products.

India will be the first country to have developed frameworks for fake review management, he said.

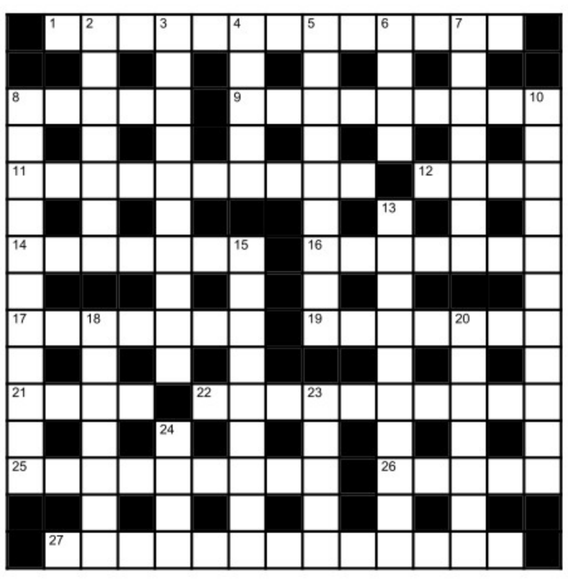
"Initially, it will be voluntary and gradually will be made mandatory," he added.

TH CROSSWORD + 13716

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Crushed by slap, irritated boy let loose in violent confrontation (7,6)
8 Special concept for album's first half (4,1)
9 Marijuana, most believe, contains primarily intoxicating element (9)
11 Influenced by cocaine, sod goes berserk (10)
12 Associate captivated by damsel in kimono (4)
14 One lad, excited about a little ride in Montreal amusement park (2,5)
16 One enthralled by exotic lassie in historical region of Central Europe (7)
17 Trendy consumer obtaining fine tea maker (7)
19 Drink after group calls it a day (5,2)
21 Old flames kiss during date in retreat (4)
22 Rodent biting, cutting mate (10)
25 One caught in country for winking (9)
26 Frail urchin eating roll (5)
27 Wrongly arresting sons for crime (13)

Down

2 One persuading to invest, abandoning tense hesitation (7)
3 Company head pinches butt! That's vulgarity (10)
4 Couple finally canoodle endlessly in Finnish city (5)
5 Praises perfect taste of snacks in retro bar (7,2)
6 Captain bowled out for nought finally? Flip! (4)
7 Non-clergy groups in retreat, mostly couples (7)
8 Informer shot English goon with pistol (5,6)
10 Attract a lot of attention, like one leaving the board might do? (4,1,6)
13 British misses outside shack showing extremely attractive bodies (5,5)
15 Notice apparatus worn by large sci-fi character (9)
18 More vicious fire, crew frantically saving women (7)
20 Port of New Orleans (7)
23 Nobody going around clubs for the time being (5)
24 Liquor around middle of day? Gross! (4)

SUDOKU

			8				2	5
	9					6		
5				7			1	
		1		9	5		4	6
4			2		1			3
3	6		4	8		1		
	3			2				7
		2					6	
6	5				4			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5625 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	E	G	G	O	E	C	A	
S	T	E	R	E	O	V	I	G
N	E	T	T	E		C	O	D
E		O	P	T		M	E	N
O	F	W	A	R		M	A	H
O	U	T		T	V	I	L	L
A	A	N		D	E	M	E	N
T	I	A		N	I	L	L	E
D		R		Y	I	I		
C	A	K	E	P	A	N		P
A	N	C	A	K	E		N	U
L	E		D	E	I	C	E	D
A	R	T	I	S	T	R	Y	
Q	I	I		Y	I	A	O	
M	U	P	P	E	T	O	U	T
C	L	A	S	S	I	H	I	
V	T	U	E		O	N	C	E
M	O	R	E		E	X	T	E
N	T		E	R	N	R	E	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	6	4	9	8	5	7	3
8	3	7	2	1	5	9	4	6
4	5	9	7	3	6	1	2	8
5	6	4	8	7	1	3	9	2
7	9	2	5	6	3	4	8	1
3	8	1	9	2	4	6	5	7
9	2	3	1	4	7	8	6	5
1	7	5	6	8	9	2	3	4
6	4	8	3	5	2	7	1	9

FAITH

Unique bond of mother, son

At periodic intervals, mankind has needed preceptors to guide straying humans back to the path of devotion. Adi Sankara came into this world in order to dissipate knowledge. His parents Sivagurunathan and Ariambal had prayed fervently at the ancient Vadakumnathan Temple in Thrissur for a child. Siva, the presiding deity, offered them a choice of a wastrel with a long life or a good son with a short lifespan and they chose the latter. While Adi Sankara is famous for his philosophy of the Self (Atman), he is also remembered for highlighting the unique bond between a mother and son, said P. Swaminathan in a lecture.

When Adi Sankara decided to turn ascetic at an early age, his mother was devastated and voiced her angst at being left alone, her husband having passed on. Adi Sankara pacified his mother saying nothing can break the bond between a mother and son.

Adi Sankara asked his mother to call out to him if she felt she was ready for the final journey and he would arrive within seconds. It so happened that when Adi Sankara was in the North, Ariamabal was sinking and with her last breath, whispered, "Sankara, you are not with me." Lord Krishna, the family's deity, is said to have reached her side at once and called out to her. Although she could not see, she called her 'son' to her side and when she touched his head, she was cast in doubt. She opened her eyes with all the life left in her and saw Narayana in all His glory, blessing her. Adi Sankara arrived soon after and performed her last rites amid stiff opposition. He soon rendered the Mathru Panchagam, five songs that immortalise the bond between a mother and son.

COLORADO

Five killed, 18 injured in shooting at gay nightclub in Colorado: police

Five people were killed and 18 injured in a shooting at a gay nightclub on Saturday night in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the police said. A suspect was in custody and was being treated for injuries after the attack at Club Q, Colorado Springs Lieutenant Pamela Castro told a news conference. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris seeks to reset U.S. relations with Philippines visit

U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris arrived in the Philippines on Sunday for talks aimed at reviving ties with the former U.S. colony, an Asian ally that is central to U.S. efforts to counter China's increasingly assertive policies towards Taiwan. Ms. Harris is scheduled to meet President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. REUTERS

KABUL

Afghan official says 19 people lashed in northeast province

Nineteen people in northeastern Afghanistan were lashed for adultery, theft and running away from home, a Supreme Court official in Kabul said on Sunday. The announcement underscored the Taliban's intention of sticking to their strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia. AFP

MOSCOW

Ukraine, Russia trade blame over nuclear plant shelling

Kyiv and Moscow on Sunday traded accusations of shelling on the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant that Russia controls in southern Ukraine. The UN atomic watchdog that has a team of experts at the plant said "powerful explosions" had occurred on Saturday and Sunday. REUTERS

Ban reversed, but Trump to stay away from Twitter

Reuters
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump on Saturday said he had no interest in returning to Twitter even as a slim majority voted in favour of reinstating the former U.S. President, who was banned from the social media service for inciting violence, in a poll organized by new owner Elon Musk. Slightly over 15 million Twitter users voted in the poll with 51.8% voting in favour of reinstatement.

"The people have spoken. Trump will be reinstated," Mr. Musk tweeted.

Sticking to guns

But Mr. Trump said he would stick with his new platform Truth Social, the app developed by his Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG) startup, which he said had better user engagement than Twitter and was doing "phenomenally well".

Twitter did not respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Trump, who on Tuesday launched a bid to regain the White House in 2024, praised Mr. Musk and said he had always liked him. But Mr. Trump also said Twitter suffered from bots, fake accounts and that the problems it faced were "incredible".

61% voting recorded in Nepal elections; one killed in violence

Electing a new Parliament will end the political instability that has plagued the country for more than a decade and impeded growth

Press Tust of India
KATHMANDU

Nearly 61% polling was recorded on Sunday in Nepal's Parliament and Provincial Assemblies elections, marred by sporadic violence and clashes that left one person dead and disrupted voting at several polling stations, officials said.

The polling started at 7 a.m. at over 22,000 polling centres and closed at 5 p.m. "The nationwide voter turnout has stood at around 61%. This is likely to increase slightly as we continue receiving details from districts across the country," Chief Election Commissioner Dinesh Kumar Thapaliya said.

The voter turnout is significantly lower as compared to the past two elections – 77% in 2013 and 78% in 2017.

More than 17.9 million voters were eligible to cast their votes to elect a 275-member House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies. The counting of votes will begin on Sunday night in three districts of Kathmandu Valley, he said, adding that the counting will end within a week.

Picking sides: A woman casts her vote during the general election in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sunday. AP

One person was killed after being shot dead at a polling station in Nateshwari Basic School of Tribeni Municipality in Bajura. The 24-year-old man was shot dead by the police following a dispute between two groups after the voting was over, officials said.

A minor explosion took place near Sharda Secondary School polling station in Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City in Kailali district. However, there was no casualty.

Prime Minister and Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba cast his ballot in his home district Dadeldhura. Mr. Deuba has continuously won the election from Dadeldhura since 1991.

Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) chairman and former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli cast his ballot at the polling centre situated in Suryabinayak Municipality in Bhaktapur district near Kathmandu. Mr. Oli said his CPN-UML-led alliance will secure a clear majority and form the next government by December 1.

Wave of cases tests China's COVID strategy; first death in six months

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China on Saturday reported its first official COVID-19 death in close to six months as the country battled a record wave of cases that have tested the government's "zero-COVID" strategy.

An 87-year-old man died in Beijing on Saturday, the first death announced by authorities since May when Shanghai was battling a wave of cases and faced a two-month lockdown.

The Chinese capital was this weekend in a state of partial lock down. While there was no sweeping lockdown order as was seen in Shanghai earlier this year - a reflection of a new "targeted" approach following a recent easing of rules - most restaurants and schools have closed, with the capital reporting more than 600 cases on Sunday.

While the high numbers would have triggered a city-wide lockdown in the past, the Communist Party leadership recently announced 20 measures aimed at easing sweeping restrictions. Maintaining that the "zero-COVID" policy was still in effect, the new measures call for more targeted and precise lockdowns, for instance closing off specific buildings rather than entire districts or cities. Under the new measures, mass testing in cities is being discouraged while secondary contacts of positive cases are no longer traced or quarantined.

The amended approach is now being tested both in Beijing and in Guangzhou, the southern manufacturing hub that accounted for one-third of the more than 24,000 national cases reported on Sunday.

Under the new measures, mass testing for infection in cities is being discouraged. AFP

Chinese authorities have persisted with "zero-COVID" three years into the pandemic, citing the low elderly vaccination rates that would result in mass deaths if the country opened up fully. Only two-thirds of the elderly population have received a booster. State media in China also continue to emphasise the seriousness of COVID-19 as a life-threatening illness, and have warned against living with the virus in contrast to the rest of the world.

"If several million elderly people above 80 years of age have not been vaccinated, it will pose a potential risk," Hong Kong University virologist Jin Dongyan told the *South China Morning Post* on Sunday. "The most important point is public education. You should give the correct information to the public. Many people's understanding of COVID still remains at the level of the initial [2020] outbreak in Wuhan. Therefore, this is what needs to be explained better."

Turkey carries out air raids in northern Syria, Iraq

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

Turkey announced on Sunday it had carried out air strikes against the bases of outlawed Kurdish militants across northern Syria and Iraq, which it said were being used to launch "terrorist" attacks on Turkish soil.

The overnight raids in northern and northeastern Syria killed at least 31 people, said the British-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. They were mainly against positions held by Syrian Kurdish forces.

The offensive, codenamed Operation Claw-Sword, comes a week after a blast in central Istanbul killed six people and wounded 81, an attack Turkey has blamed on the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The strikes targeted PKK bases in northern Iraq's mountainous regions of Kandil, Asos and Hakurk, and bases of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), in Ayn al-Arab, Tal Rifaat, Jazira and Derik regions in Syria, the Ministry said.

Malaysia's nationalist alliance closer to forming government

Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia's next government appeared to be leaning to the religious right as a coalition of Malay nationalists won support of an influential bloc on Sunday after tightly fought general elections failed to produce a clear winner. The nation's king still has to approve any deal.

The unprecedented hung Parliament after Saturday's divisive polls saw the rise of the the Malay-centric Perikatan Nasional, or National Alliance, led by former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin. It stunned many Malaysians who had hoped for stability and unity after political turmoil that has seen three Prime Ministers since 2018 polls.

Mr. Muhyiddin's alliance was an underdog that enjoyed an unexpected surge of votes with 73 out of 222 parliamentary seats. Its hard-line ally is the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, the biggest winner with a haul of 49 seats. Known as PAS, it touts Sharia, rules three States and is now the single largest party. Its rise has stoked fears of greater Islamisation in the country. Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's reformist multi-ethnic alliance topped the race with 82 federal seats, but fell far short of the 112 needed for a majority.

Campaign flags of Barisan Nasional (blue) and Pakatan Harapan coalition (red). AP

In negotiations on Sunday, Mr. Muhyiddin's coalition edged closer to a victory after securing the backing of a political bloc in Sarawak, a State on Borneo island, that won 22 seats. He still needs a nod from another key player, the long-ruling United Malays National Organization to muster a majority. The arrangement, if confirmed by the king, means that Mr. Muhyiddin will return as Prime Minister.

2 death-row convicts escape in Bangladesh

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Two Islamist extremists sentenced to death for their role in the murder of a publisher escaped from a Bangladesh court on Sunday after their guards were subdued with a chemical spray, the police said.

The two men were among eight members of the outlawed Ansar al Islam group sentenced last year for the 2015 killing of Faisal Arefin Dipan, who was targeted for publishing the works of a prominent atheist writer.

"When the officers were bringing out the convicts, two motorbike riders came in and blinded officers by spraying their faces," police detective branch chief Harunur Rashid told reporters.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan ordered a nationwide manhunt for the escapees and pledged a bounty of two million taka ($19,500) for any information leading to their arrest.

K.N. Roy Niyati, a spokesman for Dhaka Metropolitan Police, added that the men were aged 33 and 24 and used multiple aliases.

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A BG-BGE

ASKUS

N. Sree Kanth

Q My husband a state government employee and his employee contribution to NPS last year was ₹1,40,000 (10% of gross income) and the employer contribution was ₹1,96,000 (14%) He pays an LIC premium of ₹45,000 annually and also that of his parents, which comes to about ₹20,000. How should he proceed to claim deduction under Sections 80c/80ccd1/80ccd1b/80ccd2? His entire employee contribution is listed as voluntary contribution in the NPS account. Is he eligible for deduction under 80-ccd1b?

GAATHA P

A Contribution to NPS directly by your employer as employee share and employer share is covered under Section 80CCD(1) and Section 80CCD(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 respectively. The deductions on account of these contributions are covered under Section 80CCE of the Income Tax Act, 1961 whereby a limit of ₹1.5 lakh is imposed for the deductions under Section 80C, Section 80CCC, Section 80CCD(1) and Section 80CCD(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. For employee share of the NPS contribution, the deduction that can be claimed is 10% of basic and dearness allowance, while the deduction on the employer share, in your case the government being your employer, is 14% of basic and dearness allowance. It is to be noted that the aforementioned quantum of deduction cannot exceed the limits prescribed under Section 80CCE of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Under Section 80CCD, any pension scheme as notified by the Central Government is covered, as NPS tier 2 is a part of the NPS which is notified by the Central Government, contributions made to tier 2 NPS accounts can also be considered for deduction under Section 80CCD(1B) when done voluntarily. As your husband has not voluntarily contributed to the tier 2 NPS accounts, deduction under 80CCD(1B) cannot be claimed. LIC premium paid for self, spouse and children only can be claimed under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961, LIC premium paid on behalf of parents is not covered under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961. However in your husband's case, the limits as prescribed in Section 80CCE is exceeded and the entire deduction under Section 80CCD(1), Section CCD(2) and Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 will be restricted to ₹1,50,000 only.

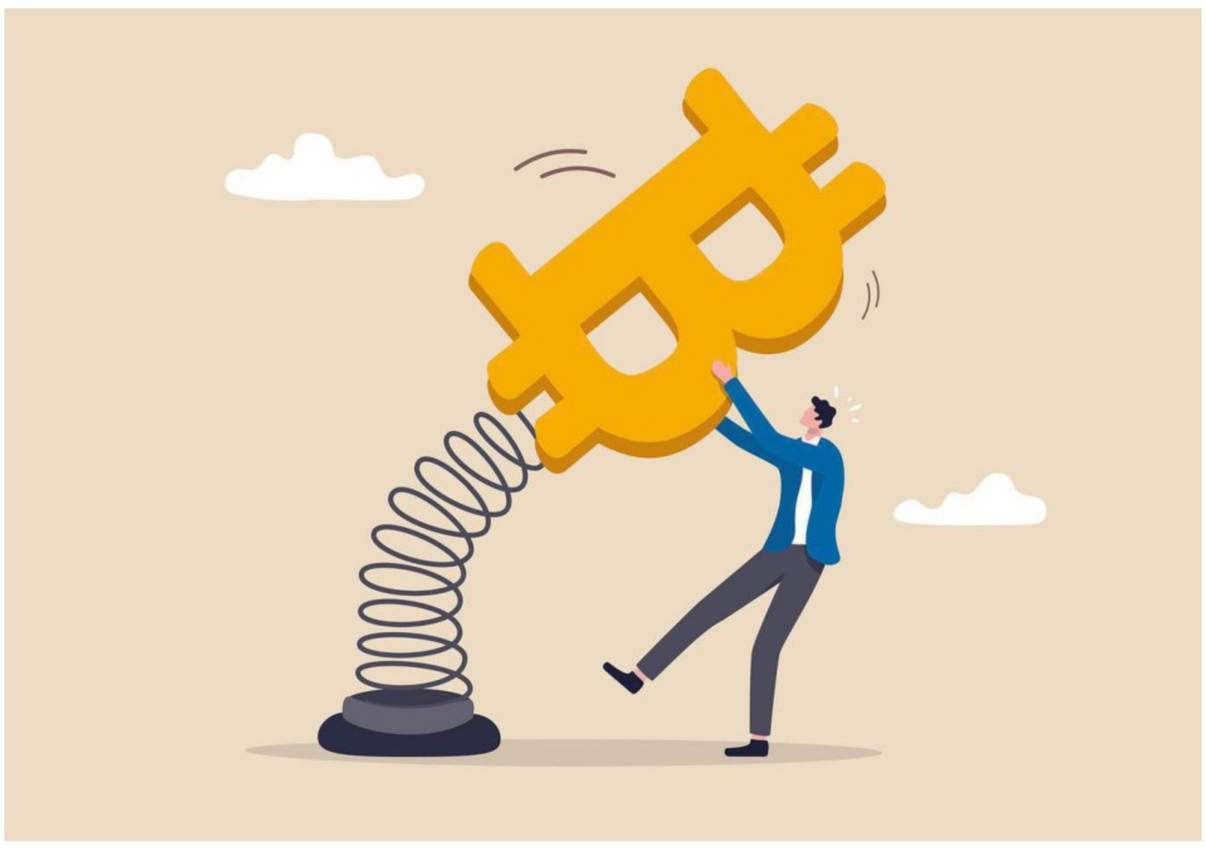
Q I am a doctor in government service residing in Delhi. My question is regarding income tax benefits of NPS tier 1 account. My total NPS contribution for the last financial year (2021-22) was ₹1,38,000 (which is 10% of my salary). Apart from NPS, my other savings which benefits 80C deduction is around ₹70,000. I understand I can also avail deduction of up to ₹50,000 for my NPS contribution under 80CCD(1B) over and above the claim under 80CCD(1) which comes under 80C(with max deduction of ₹1,50,000). So my question is whether I can split my NPS contribution between these two sections? However I want without overlap so that I can make use of the maximum allowed deduction, or is there any other criteria? Also can you please clarify whether the non-practising allowance given to government doctors is considered along with DA and basic salary for computing the NPS contribution and limits of IT deduction(under section 80CCD(1) and 80CCD (2) ?

AJIN KRISHNAN

A NPS tier 1 account comprises NPS deducted by the employer on behalf of the employee and employer's share which is covered by Section 80CCD(1) and Section 80CCD (2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Only when NPS is voluntarily contributed apart from the NPS deducted from the salary to NPS tier 2 accounts, the benefit of Section 80CCD(1B) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 can be availed for an amount up to INR 50,000 for an year. For the purpose of Section 80CCD of the Income Tax Act, 1961, NPS is calculated based on basic and dearness allowance only and it excludes all other allowances and perquisites.

(The writer is partner, GSS and Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



How a crypto fall triggered 'stampede' liquidation

In recent months, we have seen the world of cryptocurrencies and decentralised digital finance struggling to stay afloat; bankruptcy claims for FTX are selling for as low as 10 cents on the dollar

Anand Srinivasan
Sashwath Swaminathan

This time it's different – these are the words we were cautioned against by John Templeton, a notable investor, fund manager and financier.

In the past few months, we have seen the world of cryptocurrencies and decentralised digital finance struggle to stay afloat with one of the reasons being the burgeoning pressure placed upon them through central banks.

The U.S. Federal Reserve, the largest among those banks, has raised rates multiple times in the past year to almost 4% from close to 0%.

Stark contrast

The current monetary intervention starkly contrasts with the benign environment cryptocurrency enthusiasts enjoyed during the year 2021, when market liquidity ran high.

Moreover, the Federal Reserve has further indicated that it does not plan to withdraw from its hawkish stance anytime soon. In times like these, it is essential to look back in history to understand how such events might play out.

One of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges recently filed for bankruptcy, declaring they had a measly $1 billion in liquid assets to meet $9 billion in liabilities. Furthermore, they reported having 1 lakh creditors and $10-50 billion in assets and liabilities. Some of their assets involve the recent acquisition of another sinking cryptocurrency lender, Voyager, which ran into tough times due to the coins Luna and Terra for a figure crossing the $1-billion mark.

Additionally, the bankruptcy claims for FTX are selling for as low as 10 cents on the dollar, which means that individuals holding a dollar's worth of claim are willing to sell it for merely 10% of what they are owed.

The largest cryptocurrency fund, the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust, is down by more than 80% since its peak in November of 2021 compared with Bitcoin's loss of roughly 70% (at the time of writing this piece). Many cryptocurrency exchanges have exposure to this fund, whose heavy loss in valuation acts as a precursor to worse times for these firms.

The phenomenon we currently witness was aptly termed "stampede liquidation" by the late Irving Fisher, a renowned American economist.

Stampede liquidation is the act of multiple market participants wanting to withdraw their deposits at once, or willing to sell a specific asset in panic leading to a severe correction in the price. Stampede liquidation, at a large scale, generally occurs post-economic booms, with highly leveraged investments first in line. In this case, cryptocurrencies have little regulation, extreme lending,

> Cryptocurrencies lack any intrinsic value deriving their utility purely from their price

borrowing, and leveraging. Panicked investors and traders trying to withdraw all at once create a considerable disruption in the already fragile cryptocurrency exchange's financial system. These firms lent to hedge funds which went bust such as the Singapore firm Three Arrows Capital. Hedge funds are notorious for leveraging by more than 20 times the original principal. Therefore, a withdrawal of a nominal amount has a multi-fold effect behind it.

Moreover, cryptocurrencies lack any intrinsic value deriving their utility purely from their price, meaning miners who enable transactions are not incentivised to dedicate precious resources to a dwindling asset.

Perhaps the worst part about stampede liquidation is that financially strong lenders are weakened as their capital loses value by the second, weakening their position constantly. Although FTX and other such firms have more significant issues, the slide in crypto prices could not have arrived at a worse time. It is not a surprise that these firms operated in a cartel-like way to save smaller firms, such as Voyager, trying desperately to keep their sinking boat afloat.

One can observe parallels between the infamous South Sea Bubble and the current flow of events. The South Sea Company, which barely made any revenue let alone profits, also perpetrated the narrative of an attractive way to make money without the risk of losing one's capital. The rise in the stock price was accompanied by poor regulation and opaque practices. The proprietors of the company all too quickly realised that the only way to keep the company afloat was never to let the valuation of the stock price sink. Compared with their competitor, the East India Company, they had no profits, assets or any semblance of intrinsic value to write home about.

George Soros, the famous speculator and philanthropist, had said that humans are "fallible".

The line between fallibility and rationality is thin and can be crossed before one realises they are on the other side. It is, therefore, in the best interest to exercise great caution when approaching investing.

There is great wisdom in heeding the advice of Warren Buffet and sticking to one's circle of competence, not pursuing promises of extraordinary returns in place of reasonable returns.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant. Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

To cover or not to cover

COVERNOTE

What if one fails or forgets to renew health insurance? The process of getting coverage starts all over again. Depending on age, medical tests have to be submitted, any past credits are erased

K Nitya Kalyani

No, it's not a flippant take on Shakespeare. When it comes to health insurance, this question is almost as troubling as the original.

There are two points in time when we ponder this question. Before taking health insurance for the first time and when, at renewal, the premium goes up sharply for various reasons.

What if one fails or forgets to renew health insurance? The process of getting coverage starts all over again. Depending on age, medical tests have to be submitted, any past credits are erased. That is, your waiting period for pre-existing conditions and certain specified procedures start all over again.

To top this, the insurer may load your premium for pre-existing diseases and even decline coverage!

Eternal consequences

When something proves too difficult, it is only human to try up to a point and then give up and live with the consequences.

A friend in his late sixties missed his renewal and finds that he cannot get efficient and reasonably priced insurance. Being clear about their financial position he and his wife are considering going without insurance.

He is making an assessment of some standard hospitalisation expenses so he can earmark investments to meet them. With this clear picture, he says, he can go without insurance. It is a thought process worth going through if renewing health insurance is this fraught.

The regulator has ironed out some wrinkles for continued coverage in the past. For example, a hospitalisation policy is eligible for lifelong renewal provided it is kept valid and there is no misrepresentation and so on.

This was mandated for a reason so that companies do not deny cover once a claim occurs or after a certain age. Having paid premium for years together, being bereft of cover in older years, which is when coverage is meaningful and imperative, is a tragedy.

But failure to renew by oversight or clerical error even, do not have a solution.

Companies seem to be okay with letting renewals go as an ageing customer represents a greater risk.

The irony is that my friend may just discover that his projection of expenses may match, or even be less than, the cumulative premium he has paid over the years!

That is the tipping point when the idea of insurance will become less relevant and insurers cannot sit back thinking it is a seller's market.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount- 5 lakh, Tenure - 5 years — Loan amount- 1 lakh, Tenure - 5 years — Processing fee (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Citi Bank	10.75% onwardS	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
ICICI Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.25 -17.60	10,685-12,588	2,137-2,518	Up to 2% (Min. Rs 1,000 and Max. Rs 10,000)
State Bank of India	10.65 -15.15	10,784-11,934	2,157-2,387	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	9.75-14.25	10,562-11,699	2,112-2,340	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	12.10-15.80	11,148-12,106	2,230-2,421	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	9.80-16.35	10,574-12,252	2,115-2,450	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.75-15.50	10,562-12,027	2,112-2,405	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.80-14.90	10,821-11,869	2,164-2,374	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 4%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.55-12.15	10,759-11,160	2,152-2,232	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.25-20.00	11,185-13,247	2,237-2,649	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	11.95-12.35	11,110-11,211	2,222-2,242	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	8.90-14.70	10,673-11,816	2,135-2,363	Up to 1%
Indian Overseas Bank*	11.90-12.90	11,097-11,351	2,219-2,270	Up to 0.75%
Karnataka Bank	13.48	11,500	2,300	Up to 0.25% (Minimum Rs 250)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

*1.00% Special Interest Concession to Borrowers with CIC Score of 800 and above
Rates and charges as on November 16

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.40-10.20	10,234-10,673	Up to Rs. 1,000
Bank of Baroda	8.50-11.80	10,258-11,072	Up to 0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	8.80-11.50	10,331-10,996	NIL till 31st December 2022
Bank of India	8.30-10.25	10,210-10,685	NIL
UCO Bank	8.80 - 10.05	10,331-10,636	1% (Upto Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.20-9.20	10,186-10,428	NIL
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 11.10	10,319-10,896	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70-12.20	10,307-11,173	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank**	9.45	10,489	NIL till 31st December 2022
ICICI Bank	8.30 onwards	10,210 onwards	Rs 5,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.50 onwards	10,258 onwards	Up to 0.50% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.99-11.04	10,377-10,881	Up to 0.60% (Rs 2,500-Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.40	10,722	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Axis Bank	8.40-13.05	10,234-11,389	Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
South Indian Bank	11.05-12.50	10,884-11,249	1% (Max: Rs. 10,000)
City Union Bank	13.50-14.00	11,505-11,634	1.25% (Min: Rs 750)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders. 0.05% interest rate concession to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 800 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers.

Rates and charges as on November 17 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

Ecuador coasts past Qatar as weight of expectations prove heavy for the host

Arabian Nights-themed opening ceremony enthrals spectators in a spectacle of lights, fireworks and mysticism at the Al Bayt stadium

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

In a stadium filled with raucous home support, Qatar – playing its first World Cup game ever – failed to draw inspiration from its fans or the richness of its precious past showcased during the opening act. The hosts lack of big-game experience and the individual brilliance of Enner Valencia handed it a 2-0 loss – the first for a host on the opening day of the competition.

The 12-year weight of expectations proved too heavy a burden for these players. Goalkeeper Saad Al-Sheeb did little to soothe his teammates' battered psyche. He was saved early on by VAR after making a mess of stepping too far out in an attempt to clear a freekick in the third minute. Valencia's header from four yards was ruled out for offside.

Flexing his neck muscles: Enner Valencia's whiplash of a header sends Ecuador two goals up against a hapless Qatar. AP

The Ecuadorian, however, soon found the lead for his team, captialising on yet another Al-Sheeb mistake. The goalkeeper, moving late off his line, brought down Valencia and the skipper used his experience to wait for Al-Sheeb to commit to his dive before caressing the ball to the other side of the goal from the spot in the 16th minute.

Another goal followed just a minute after the half-hour mark. Brighton's Moises Caicedo's one-two with Angelo Preciado brought in a measured cross into the box and Valencia was there to stretch his neck muscles like a giraffe and send in a downward header past a late-reacting Al-Sheeb.

With Ecuador showing no urgency to add to its tally, the second half was a more subdued affair with Qatar coach Felix Sanchez pushing his fullbacks up to counter the surging runs of the opposition wingbacks.

Mohammed Muntari, running and bringing down a long pass from defence, saw his shot rattle the roof of the net with nine minutes left to play – the closest Qatar came to a first World Cup goal.

Earlier an opening night spectacle of lights, fireworks and mysticism transported the 67372 spectators at the Bedouin tent shaped Al Bayt stadium into the surreal world of Arabian Nights.

The gravitas lent by the booming voice of Oscar-winner Morgan Freeman juxtaposed snuggly with the official song Dreamer crooned by Jung Kook, the youngest member of South Korean boyband BTS.

The result: Qatar 0 lost to Ecuador 2 (Valencia 16-pen & 31).

Will Southgate's fortunes swing north when England meets Iran?

You the man! Southgate will look to Dier and England to lift their game at the World Cup. REUTERS

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

England manager Gareth Southgate, increasingly looking like the helpless protagonist of the Hangman game, will need his team to play enterprisingly and deliver a positive result in its World Cup opener against Iran to stop the noose from tightening further.

A contract running till December 2024 has offered Southgate no comfort given the recent results – a winless Nations League run – and a lack of imagination in play robbing him off all the goodwill that a run to the Euro final had offered last year.

The manager, further handicapped by the absence of the injured Chelsea wing-back pair of Reece James and Ben Chilwell, has a lot to worry about his defence as Harry Maguire is struggling for form and the ever-dependable Kyle Walker is yet to recover.

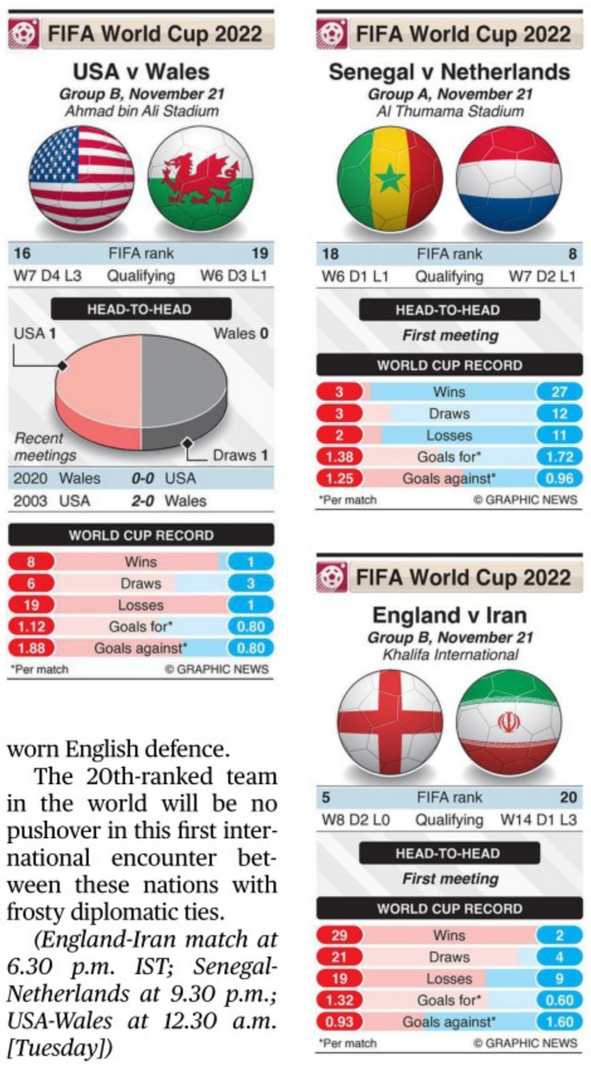
Upfront, skipper Harry Kane would be Southgate's key man with Raheem Sterling and Bukayo Saka operating from the wide areas in a 3-4-3 system. With Leicester City's James Maddison and Manchester City's Kalvin Phillips doubtful after missing out on training, England might benefit from the inclusion of 19-year-old Jude Bellingham, who can bring the fearlessness of youth to rattle the Iranian ranks alongside the measured and experienced Declan Rice.

Managed by former Manchester United and Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz for the third time in a World Cup, Iran's attacking threat will come from Mehdi Taremi, who has 28 goals in 60 appearances, as Bayer Leverkusen forward Sardar Azmoun – the Iranian Messi – is yet to recover from a calf injury he suffered in October.

Queiroz, known for his safety-first approach, might pack his midfield in a 4-5-1 system in a bid to deny England space. In Alireza Jahanbakhsh and skipper Ehsan Hajsafi, who will be figuring in his 122nd international, Team Melli has enough experience to threaten the confidence-worn English defence.

The 20th-ranked team in the world will be no pushover in this first international encounter between these nations with frosty diplomatic ties.

(England-Iran match at 6.30 p.m. IST; Senegal-Netherlands at 9.30 p.m.; USA-Wales at 12.30 a.m. [Tuesday])



Kiwis have no answers to Suryakumar's belligerence

INDIA IN NZ

Agence France-Presse
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Batting dynamo Suryakumar Yadav steered India to a 65-run win in the second Twenty20 International here on Sunday.

Suryakumar struck an imperious 111 not out off just 51 balls as the tourists posted 191 for six at the Bay Oval. New Zealand was skittled out for 126 in the 19th over, handing India a 1-0 lead in the three-match series after the opening fixture was washed out in Wellington on Friday.

Second T20I ton

To win the final game in Napier on Tuesday, the Black Caps will need to find an answer to Suryakumar, who illustrated why he is ranked the world's best T20 batter.

The 32-year-old struck 11 fours and cleared the ropes seven times as he compiled his second century in the format, having posted 117 against England at Nottingham four months ago.

Suryakumar ensured the run rate accelerated as the innings progressed and he raised three figures while taking 22 runs off the penultimate over bowled by Lockie Ferguson.

The final over provided the home side's best moment, when seamer Tim Southee claimed his second career hat-trick, dismissing India captain Hardik Pandya before removing Deepak Hooda and Washington Sundar for golden ducks.

New Zealand's run chase struggled from the moment opener Finn Allen holed out off the second delivery.

Captain Kane Williamson top-scored with 61 off 52 but his struggle for timing was mirrored by his teammates against an Indian attack boasting variety and discipline.

Spinner Hooda took four for 10 off 2.5 overs, claiming the last three wickets in the space of four balls.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Ishan Kishan c Southee b Sodhi 36 *(31b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Rishabh Pant c Southee b Ferguson 6 *(13b, 1x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 111 *(51b, 11x4, 7x6)*, Shreyas Iyer hit wicket b Ferguson 13 *(9b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Neesham b Southee 13 *(13b)*, Deepak Hooda c Ferguson b Southee 0 *(1b)*, Washington Sundar c Neesham b Southee 0 *(1b)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-9): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 191.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-36 (Pant, 5.1 overs), 2-69 (Kishan, 9.1), 3-108 (Shreyas, 12.4), 4-190 (Hardik, 19.3), 5-190 (Hooda, 19.4), 6-190 (Washington, 19.5).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Southee 4-0-34-3; Milne 4-0-35-0; Ferguson 4-0-49-2; Neesham 1-0-9-0; Sodhi 4-0-35-1; Santner 3-0-27-0.

NEW ZEALAND

Finn Allen c Arshdeep b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(2b)*, Devon Conway c Arshdeep b Washington 25 *(22b, 3x4)*, Kane Williamson b Siraj 61 *(52b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Phillips b Chahal 12 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Daryl Mitchell c Shreyas b Hooda 10 *(11b)*, James Neesham c Kishan b Chahal 0 *(3b)*, Mitchell Santner c & b Siraj 2 (7b), Adam Milne c Arshdeep b Hooda 6 (5b, 1x6), Ish Sodhi st. Pant b Hooda 1 (3b), Tim Southee c Pant b Hooda 0 (1b), Lockie Ferguson (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (in 18.5 overs): 126.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Allen, 0.2), 2-56 (Conway, 8.1), 3-69 (Phillips, 9.3), 4-88 (Mitchell, 12.5), 5-89 (Neesham, 13.3), 6-99 (Santner, 15.5), 7-124 (Williamson, 17.5), 8-125 (Sodhi, 18.2), 9-125 (Southee, 18.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 3-0-12-1, Arshdeep 3-0-29-0, Siraj 4-1-24-2, Washington 2-0-24-1, Chahal 4-0-26-2, Hooda 2.5-0-10-4.

Toss: New Zealand; **MoM:** Suryakumar.

India won by 65 runs to take a 1-0 lead in three-match series.

Third and final T20I: November 22, Napier, 12 noon IST.

Cosmic dance: Suryakumar left the Kiwi bowlers in despair, not knowing where to bowl to him. AP

OH, NO!

Benzema ruled out, France not seeking a replacement

Champion France will not replace the injured Karim Benzema in its World Cup squad, coach Didier Deschamps said on Sunday, even though FIFA rules give him until Monday to do so. Meanwhile, Romelu Lukaku will not play for Belgium until at least its final group match.

TOUGH BEGINNING

Dutch confidence set to be tested against Senegal

The Netherlands' claims about being serious contenders face early examination on Monday as it opens the Group A campaign against African champion Senegal, who are reeling from the shock of losing Sadio Mane. The Dutch are on an 15-match unbeaten run under Louis van Gaal.

FIT TO PLAY

Bale ready for Wales' WC opener against USA

Wales captain Gareth Bale declared himself fit and ready for its opening match at the World Cup in Qatar against the USA on Monday, but midfielder Joe Allen has been ruled out as he recovers from a hamstring injury. Wales will be playing at a World Cup for the first time in 64 years.

IN A HURRY

Ruud races past Rublev to make final of ATP Finals

World No. 4 Casper Ruud dispatched Andrey Rublev 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday to set up a title clash with Novak Djokovic in the ATP Finals in Turin. The Norwegian is chasing a maiden Finals crown, while the Serb is aiming for a record-equalling sixth title.

FACILE WIN

FC Goa solves the ATK MB puzzle, finally

FC Goa, after losing three and drawing one against ATK Mohun Bagan in its previous encounters, registered a 3-0 victory against the Kolkata giant in the Indian Super League in Goa on Sunday. Aibanbha Dohling, Mohamed Fares Arnaout and Noah Wail Sadaoui were on target.

INBRIEF

Divij-Purav pair wins title in Helsinki; Sravya in Nairobi

Purav Raja and Divij Sharan defeated Reese Stalder and Petros Tsitsipas 6-7(5), 6-3, [10-8] in the doubles final of the €67,960 Challenger tennis tournament in Helsinki. It was the second title of the season for Purav and Divij, who collected 90 ATP points and €3,950. In the ITF women's event in Nairobi, Sravya Shivani won the doubles title with Celine Simunyu of Ireland. It was the first title of the season for Sravya.

Other result: $25,000 UTR Pro women, Dubai: Positional play-off: Stefania Bojica (Rou) bt Sai Samhitha 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.

Majcen's goal makes the difference for RoundGlass

RoundGlass Punjab FC (RGPFC) overcame Kolkata giant Mohammedan Sporting 1-0, courtesy a Luka Majcen strike in the third minute, to register its second consecutive win in an I-League match at Panchkula on Sunday. It was the second loss for Sporting.

Arjun stuns Liem; Carlsen crushes Praggnanandhaa

Arjun Erigaisi completed a hat-trick of victories by brushing aside Vietnamese Le Quang Liem 2.5-0.5 in the sixth round of the $210,000 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals on Saturday. However, R. Praggnanandhaa surrendered 0.5-2.5 to Magnus Carlsen as the World champion opened up a five-point lead at the top and ensured the title with a round to spare.

Standings (after sixth round): 1. Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 17 points), 2. Wesley So (12), 3. Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 10), 4. Arjun Erigaisi (9), Le Quang Liem (Vie, 8), 6-7. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 6), R. Praggnanandhaa (6), 8. Anish Giri (Ned, 4).

Naveen back in business as Dabang beats Steelers

Naveen Kumar (15 points) roared back to form as Dabang Delhi scored a 42-30 win over Haryana Steelers in the Pro Kabaddi League in Hyderabad on Sunday. Aslam Inamdar's raid in the dying seconds helped Puneri Paltan pip Bengaluru Bulls 35-33 in a nerve-wracking contest.

Vishwanath, Vanshaj among eight Indians in quarterfinals

Reigning Asian youth champions Vishwanath Suresh and Vanshaj were among eight Indians who advanced to the quarterfinals of the Youth men and women's World Boxing Championships in La Nucia, Spain.

The results: Men: 48kg: Vishwanath bt Attrativo Salvatore (Ita) 5-0; **63.5kg:** Vanshaj bt Kakulov Enrique (Esp) 5-0; **51kg:** Jadumani Singh bt Jimenez Asier (Esp); **54kg:** Ashish bt Pamisa Eijay (Phi); **75kg:** Deepak bt Leiva Antonio (Arg); **67kg:** Aman Rathore lost to Yousif Hussein (Irq).
Women: 48kg: Bhawna Sharma bt Oliwia Zuzanna (Pol); **50kg:** Tamanna bt Pia Jarvinen(Fin); **54kg:** Griviya Devi bt Ana Maria Romantov (Rou).

Karnataka in National sub-junior basketball final

Karnataka beat Madhya Pradesh 51-32 to enter the final of the National sub-junior basketball championship in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

MONDAY'S HAZARE TROPHY SCHEDULE

Group A (Delhi): Saurashtra vs. Tripura; Manipur vs. Uttar Pradesh; Chandigarh vs. Himachal Pradesh; Gujarat vs. Hyderabad.

Group B (Kolkata): Assam vs. Vidarbha; Delhi vs. Jharkhand; Meghalaya vs. Rajasthan; Karnataka vs. Sikkim.

Group C (Bengaluru): Bihar vs. Kerala; Arunachal Pradesh vs. Tamil Nadu; Andhra vs. Haryana; Chhattisgarh vs. Goa.

Group D (Mumbai): Madhya Pradesh vs. Nagaland; Odisha vs. Punjab; Baroda vs. Uttarakhand.

Group E (Ranchi): Mumbai vs. Pondicherry; Maharashtra vs. Mizoram; Bengal vs. Services.

Harleen and spinners shine as India-A wins big against India-C

India-D romps past India-B in a lop-sided contest with the openers taking the team past the finish line in just 10.2 overs

T20 CHALLENGER

P.K. Ajith Kumar
RAIPUR

A brutal onslaught at the death from Harleen Deol took India-A to a total that would prove too good for India-C in the opening match of the Senior Women's T20 Challenger Trophy tournament on Sunday.

Riding on Harleen's unbeaten 51 off 30 balls (8x4, 1x6), India-A made 160 for two after choosing to bat at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Stadium. In reply, India-C could only manage 126 for eight, thus going down by 34 runs.

The margin would have been bigger but for some lusty blows towards the end by captain Pooja Vastrakar (61, 38b, 4x4, 3x6). By the time she pressed on the accelerator, it was too late.

Two to tango: Sahana spun a web around the India-C batters after Harleen had piloted India-A to a competitive total. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

A brilliant spell - one for 10 from four overs –with the new ball by left-arm seamer Anjali Sarvani had put India-C on the back foot. Then the Karnataka spinners Sahana Pawar and Shreyanka Patil took over, claiming five wickets between them.

India-C could not recover from its poor start, losing both openers, S. Meghana and Kiran Navgire, before the PowerPlay was over.

Earlier, Harleen paced her innings nicely. Her flicked six over square-leg off Pooja in the final over was gorgeous.

She had arrived in the middle after openers Nuzhat Parween (55, 54b, 6x4) and Shivali Shinde (42, 31b, 5x4, 1x6) added 67. The second-wicket stand between Nuzhat and Harleen was worth 59.

The day's second match was even more of a mismatch, as India-D crushed India-B by 10 wickets. Yastika Bhatia (22 n.o., 26b, 2x4) and Jasia Akhter (56 n.o., 36b, 9x4) needed only 10.2 overs to take their side home after a fine show by the bowlers saw India-B unable to last the full overs, getting knocked over for 80.

The job began by seamers Renuka Singh and Shikha Pandey was finished off by spinners Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Sneh Rana, the skipper.

The scores:

India-A 160/2 in 20 overs (Nuzhat Parween 55, Shivali Shinde 42, Harleen Deol 51 n.o.) bt India-C 126/8 in 20 overs (Pooja Vastrakar 61, Sahana Pawar 3/14, Shreyanka Patil 2/36).
India-B 80 in 18.2 overs (Renuka Singh 2/24, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 3/11, Sneh Rana 2/13) lost to India-D 81/0 in 10.2 overs (Jasia Akhter 56 n.o.).

Opening race fails to last the distance

V.S. Aravind
HYDERABAD

The much-anticipated opening race of the Indian Racing League (IRL) failed to last the distance here on Sunday.

The street circuit race lasted just 10 minutes after one of the Bangalore Speedsters racers lost control while navigating a sharp bend near the Hussainsagar corner and crashed into a barricade. Fortunately, the driver did not suffer any major injury.

Soon after the incident, a boom truck entered the race track even as fans hoped for a resumption. However, there was no announcement for nearly an hour before the race was called off.

"There was an incident with a car and on advice from the FMSCI stewards and FMSCI, along with the RPPL technical team, the races had to be postponed to investigate the incident," said a RPPL spokesperson. The postponed race will be held in Chennai.

Shweta to lead India women's u-19 team against NZ

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shweta Sehrawat will captain the women's India under-19 squad in the five-match home series against New Zealand from November 27 to December 6.

The squad:

Shweta Sehrawat (Capt.), Soumya Tiwari (Vice-capt.), Shikha Shalot, Trisha G., Sonia Mehdiya, Hurley Gala, Hrishita Basu (wk), Nandini Kashyap (wk), Sonam Yadav, Mannat Kashyap, Archana Devi, Parshavi Chopra, Titas Sadhu, Falak Naz, and Md. Shabnam.

Makhtoob could come good in the feature event

HYDERABAD: The six-year-old gelding Makhtoob, who ran third in his last start, may make amends in the upper division of the Sri Shamlal Gupta Memorial Cup, the feature event of the opening day's races here on Monday (Nov. 21).

1 MEDAK PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45, 12.40 p.m.: 1. La Mirage (1) Suraj Narredu 60, 2. Blue Brigade (9) Rafique Sk. 59.5, 3. Ivanhoe (3) Surya Prakash 57.5, 4. Clefairy (11) Santosh Raj 55.5, 5. Stoic Hero (8) Khurshad Alam 55.5, 6. N R I Fantasy (4) G. Naresh 54.5, 7. Power Ranger (13) Gaurav Singh 54, 8. Master Touch (5) Md. Ismail 53.5, 9. Shubhrak (7) Abhay Singh 53.5, 10. Black Opal (10) Afroz Khan 53, 11. Euphoria (12) B. Nikhil 53, 12. Its On (2) D.S. Deora 53 and 13. Aarya (6) Uday Kiran 52.

1. LA MIRAGE, 2. CLEFAIRY, 3. IVANHOE

2 GRACE HANOVER PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 2-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.10: 1. Bleue Dali (6) Akshay Kumar 56, 2. Ice Blue (5) R.S. Jodha 56, 3. Lucky Nine (7) Abhay Singh 56, 4. N R I Skylab (8) Koushik 56, 5. Truth (4) A.A. Vikrant 56, 6. Voyager (3) Suraj Narredu 56, 7. Proud Mary (1) Kiran Naidu 54.5 and 8. Santa Barbara (2) Afroz Khan 54.5.

1. BLEUE DALI, 2. VOYAGER, 3. N R I SKYLAB

3 HIDDEN BLOOM PLATE (1,600m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 1.40: 1. Fast Track (1) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Good Day (3) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Purple Rock (6) Gaurav Singh 60, 4. My Way Or Highway (10) Mohit Singh 60, 5. Akash (7) A.A. Vikrant 59, 6. Silver Lining (5) Mukesh Kumar 58.5, 7. China Town (9) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 8. Sweet Melody (8) Aneel 58, 9. First In Line (2) Surya Prakash 57 and 10. AR Superior (4) G. Naresh 52.

1. FAST TRACK, 2. MY WAY OR HIGHWAY, 3. SILVER LINING

4 SRI SHAMLAL GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.10: 1. Mirana (9) R.S. Jodha 62.5, 2. Royal Grace (8) Mukesh Kumar 61.5, 3. DRD (5) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 4. Beauty Flame (1) Santosh Raj 56.5, 5. Just Incredible (7) Aneel 56.5, 6. Four One Four (4) A.A. Vikrant 55, 7. Castlerock (6) Afroz Khan 54.5, 8. Shazam (2) D.S. Deora 53.5 and 9. Star Babe (3) Abhay Singh 53.

1. MIRANA, 2. SHAZAM, 3. ROYAL GRACE

5 CABARET PLATE (1,800m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.45: 1. Akido (6) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Ashwa Raudee (4) D.S. Deora 60, 3. N R I Sun (8) Antony Raj 60, 4. True Icon (5) B. Nikhil 56, 5. Mysterious Angel (1) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55, 6. Wallop And Gallop (2) Kiran Naidu 54, 7. Campania (7) Afroz Khan 52.5 and 8. Pleroma (3) Akshay Kumar 52.5.

1. ASHWA RAUDEE, 2. PLEROMA, 3. N R I SUN

6 HIMAYAT SAGAR CUP (DIV. I) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Above The Law (8) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Doe A Deer (10) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Bellagio (14) Mukesh Kumar 59, 4. The Thunder (6) Gaurav Singh 58, 5. Indian Prince (1) Khurshad Alam 57.5, 6. Temptations (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57.5, 7. Silk (4) Koushik 55.5, 8. Golden Inzio (12) Aneel 54.5, 9. Apex Star (9) Rafique Sk. 52.5, 10. Stay Smart (3) B. Nikhil 52, 11. Ilango (5) G. Naresh 51.5, 12. Life Is Good (11) Abhay Singh 50.5, 13. Blast In Class (13) Santosh Raj 50 and 14. I Am Superman (7) Surya Prakash 50.

1. TEMPTATIONS, 2. THE THUNDER, 3. ABOVE THE LAW

7 HIMAYAT SAGAR CUP (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.45: 1. Angel Tesoro (12) Antony Raj 60, 2. Linewiler (1) Kiran Naidu 60, 3. Crimson Rose (5) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 4. Mr. Perfect (4) Mukesh Kumar 58, 5. Only My Way (8) Aneel 57.5, 6. Soorya Vahan (6) Abhay Singh 57, 7. Salisbury (11) Afroz Khan 55, 8. High Reward (7) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 9. Big Boy (13) D.S. Deora 52.5, 10. Starlit Express (2) Rafique Sk. 52.5, 11. Siri (10) Md. Ismail 51.5, 12. Miss Madhura Nagar (3) G. Naresh 51, 13. Honourable Lady (9) Santosh Raj 50.5 and Fatuma (14) P. Ajeeth Kumar 50.

1. CRIMSON ROSE, 2. SALISBURY, 3. HIGH REWARD

8 SRI SHAMLAL GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65, 4.15: 1. Chuckit (4) Santosh Raj 62.5, 2. Mark My Day (2) R.S. Jodha 61.5, 3. Makhtoob (1) Gaurav Singh 61, 4. Vintage Brut (9) Kiran Naidu 59, 5. Sun Dancer (5) Afroz Khan 57.5, 6. Nightmare (3) Antony Raj 56, 7. Aerial Combat (8) Abhay Singh 54.5, 8. Advance Guard (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54 and 9. Explosive (7) B. Nikhil 50.

1. MAKHTOOB, 2. CHUCKIT, 3. SUN DANCER

9 MEDAK PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. Pinatubo (1) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Avancia (11) Suraj Narredu 58.5, 3. Acrobat (6) Surya Prakash 57, 4. Protocol (5) Md. Ismail 55.5, 5. Miss Solitaire (12) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 6. Lights On (4) Afroz Khan 54, 7. N R I Ultrapower (9) Akshay Kumar 54, 8. Voice Of A Dream (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54, 9. Lady Danger (3) D.S. Deora 53.5, 10. Sweet Talk (8) Khurshad Alam 53.5, 11. Deccan Ranger (7) Santosh Raj 53 and 12. Mountain Rose (10) G. Naresh 53.

1. AVANCIA, 2. ACROBAT, 3. MISS SOLITAIRE

Day's best: **LA MIRAGE**

Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9. Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9. Treble : (i) 1, 2 & 3. (ii) 4, 5 & 6. (iii) 7, 8 & 9. Tanala: All races.

Raghul's day out on the street circuit

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Raghul Rangasamy won the first two out of the three races in the third round of the 25th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship at the Hyderabad Street Circuit here on Sunday.

Viswas Vijayaraj, who came second in the first race, finished ahead of Raghul in the third race.

The results (provisional, round three): LGB Formula 4:

Race 1: 1. Raghul Rangasamy (MSport) 13.08.789; 2. Viswas Vijayaraj (Ahura Racing) 13.11.769; 3. Diljith TS (Ahura Racing) 13.14.242.

Race 2: 1. Raghul Rangasamy (MSport) 24.53.474; 2. Saran Vikram (Mars Racing) 24.54.716; 3. Ashwin Datta (Dark Don Racing) 24.55.691.

Race 3: 1. Vishwas Vijayaraj (Ahura Racing) 19:31.807; 2. Raghul Rangasamy (MSport) 19: 32.429; 3. Arya Singh (Dark Don Racing) 19:38.785.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sean Davis pockets title

Sean Davis defeated M. Yogesh Kumar 4-3 (28-81, 57-56, 48-52, 61-15, 72-48, 12-80, 66-43) to clinch his maiden State-ranking men's snooker title here on Sunday.

Sean Davis.

FCBU blanks Rebels

FCBU blanked Rebels 5-0 in an under-18 match of the KSFA Youth Premier League here on Sunday.

The results: U-18: BBFS bt Bengaluru Champs 5-0; South Castel bt MVFA 2-0; BYFL drew with MVFA 2-2; FCBU bt Rebels 5-0; Roots bt Belgaum Utd FA 4-2;

U-15: Roots bt Bengaluru Champs 13-0; MVFA bt Titan FA 3-1; Nakhatra bt BSSSS 7-0.

U-13: Spoortshood bt BSSSS 6-0; Black Panther bt Titan FA 6-0; VAS SA bt GRK FA 13-0.

U-11: Alchemy Intl bt BSSSS 4-0; U-9: FCBU drew with Shooterz FA 1-1; BCFC bt Goal Football Sch 4-0; BBFS bt Coolulu 3-1.

Exit and elation: Vettel bid adieu to Formula One even as Verstappen signed off the season with another success. REUTERS

Verstappen signs off with 15th win

ABU DHABI GP

Reuters
ABU DHABI

Double World champion Max Verstappen signed off on a dominant 2022 Formula One campaign with a record-extending 15th win of the year in Sunday's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, as Charles Leclerc secured second in the overall standings.

The Dutchman was unchallenged as he led from pole position to chequered flag.

Edged out

He crossed the line 8.7 seconds ahead of Leclerc, who held on to second ahead of Sergio Perez to edge him in their battle for second.

Sebastian Vettel scored the final point in 10th on what has been an emotional swansong weekend for the Aston Martin driver. He signed off with some tyre smoking donuts on the start-finish straight.

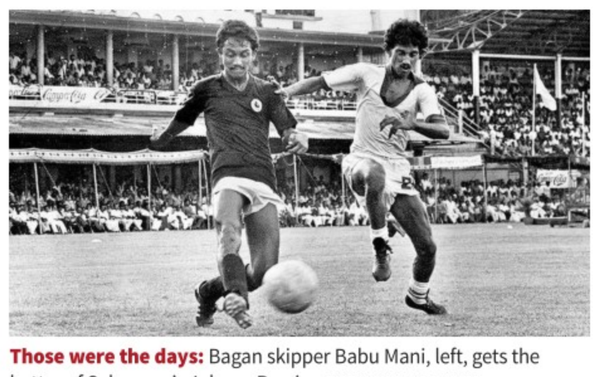
Vettel, who took part in 299 races, signed off with four World titles, 53 race wins and 57 pole positions.

The results (top 5): 1 Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:27:45.914, 2. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) +8.771, 3. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) +10.093, 4. Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari) +24.892, 5. George Russell (Mercedes) +35.888.
Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 454, 2. Leclerc 308, 3. Perez 305, 4. Russell 275, 5. Sainz 246.
Constructors: 1. Red Bull 759, 2. Ferrari 554, 3. Mercedes 515, 4. Alpine 173, 5. McLaren 159.

LIVE TELECAST

I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 & 7 p.m.
FIFA World Cup 2022: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m. onwards

Ex-international footballer Babu Mani passes away



Those were the days: Bagan skipper Babu Mani, left, gets the better of Salgaocar's Johnny Pereira. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Former India footballer Babu Mani passed away at Kolkata. He was 59. A skilful forward, Mani made his international debut at the 1984 Nehru Cup in Kolkata, against the Argentina side that went on to win the World Cup two years later.

Mani was also part of the Indian team which won the South Asian Federation Games (1985 and 1987). He represented India in 55 matches.

Mani was popular in Kolkata, having represented club sides Mohammedan Sporting, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal. It was at Mohun Bagan that Mani made the biggest impact, leading the side to several titles.

Mani, born and raised in Bengaluru, started his career with local club Independents FC. He represented Karnataka in the Santosh Trophy with distinction. Mani later moved and lived in Kolkata.

In a condolence message, AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said, "I am extremely sad to hear that Babu Mani, who was one of India's best footballers of his time, is no more. We will always remember him through his contribution to Indian Football. My thoughts go out to his family in this difficult hour."

Shaji Prabhakaran, secretary general, AIFF, said, "Mr. Babu Mani will always be remembered through his exploits on the football pitch. He was an exceptional footballer, and had inspired many youngsters. My condolences to his family. May his soul rest in peace."